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Tuesday, 9 December 2008, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mesić	(Croatia)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Grauls
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Kafando
	China	Mr. Zhang Yesui
	Costa Rica	Mr. Weisleder
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Italy	Mr. Terzi di Sant'Agata
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Ettalhi
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad
	Viet Nam	Mr. Hoang Chi Trung

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Letter dated 26 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2008/738)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

08-63699 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Letter dated 26 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2008/738)

The President (*spoke in French*): I am pleased to welcome the ministers and other distinguished representatives participating in this meeting of the Security Council, together with the Secretary-General. Their presence is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter to be addressed by the Council. I would also like in particular to welcome the presence of the Secretary-General.

I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka and Turkey, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

It is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2008/738, which contains the text of a letter dated 26 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

The Republic of Croatia has decided to propose the theme for today's meeting for two main reasons. First, we believe that only a global response can provide a solution to the global threat posed by terrorism and that this is the sole forum within which to formulate that response. Secondly, we believe that the level of solidarity between nations is not the same as it was in September 2001 and, also, is undoubtedly less than we need today. If anyone questions that, the most recent attacks in Mumbai should have dispelled such a notion.

I now invite the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to take the floor.

The Secretary-General: I thank the Government of Croatia for convening this timely meeting and I welcome His Excellency President Mesić, President of Croatia, chairing this meeting in person.

Terrorism is a global scourge. The carnage it inflicts is appalling and morally reprehensible. It seeks to foment distrust between States and peoples. It tries to tear societies apart, undermine institutions and weaken the bonds that tie communities together. The awful attacks in Mumbai two weeks ago are only the most recent example of mad, misguided individuals run amok.

Terrorism is a leading threat to international peace and security. Combating it must be one of the main priorities of the international community. Those armed with planes and guns today could well arrive with more potent force tomorrow. So, those who believe that terror is a means by which they can achieve their goals must be shown that they will fail.

The best response to a caustic and malevolent ideology is a strong assertion of collective resistance. We need to defend the human rights that terrorism so brutally violates. We need to defend the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the sixtieth anniversary of which we commemorate tomorrow.

The United Nations has a responsibility to lead the international community's efforts to confront this menace, which no cause or grievance can justify. As a universal organization, with independent and impartial standing, the United Nations is uniquely placed to play that role. Indeed, the Security Council and the General Assembly have strongly condemned terrorism time and

again. They have sought to promote the universal norm that terrorism is never acceptable. They have adopted important legal instruments and law-enforcement measures and addressed the economic and social dimensions of terrorism. The Assembly's adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 was a landmark decision that demonstrated the unanimous and unequivocal commitment of the international community.

United Nations mechanisms, such as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, are also important parts of the picture. United Nations agencies, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization, provide advice and technical assistance. In some countries, the United Nations might be the only acceptable source for political reasons. In others, the United Nations may add value simply by giving legitimacy to bilateral or regional programmes, because the United Nations has determined that they meet international norms and standards.

We are also using the convening power of the United Nations in this struggle. At last month's High-level meeting on the culture of peace, leaders and senior officials from more than 70 Member States, representing diverse faiths and communities, rejected the use of religion to justify the killing of innocent people and acts of terrorism, violence and coercion. In September, I convened a symposium here at United Nations Headquarters that placed a much-needed spotlight on the plight of victims. The awful paradox is that the voices of terrorists often garner more attention than those of the people who bear the brunt of their cruelty. This is only the beginning of our efforts to correct that imbalance, give a human face to the victims of terrorism and thereby build a culture that rejects terrorism.

In closing, Sir, let me remind you that we meet just two days shy of the first anniversary of the bombing of the United Nations offices in Algeria. That horrendous attack took the lives of 17 of our colleagues and injured some 40 more. It was all too reminiscent of the attack on the United Nations compound in Baghdad more than five years ago. Just a few weeks ago, a suicide bomber attacked the United Nations compound in Hargeisa, Somalia, killing two staffers.

It is more apparent than ever that the United Nations, too, has become a deliberate target. Yet, those tragedies have deterred neither our will nor our ability to serve the international community. The United Nations will continue its vital work wherever and whenever needed.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of my country, I would like to welcome you, Sir, and say that we are deeply honoured to see you presiding over this very important meeting, the topic of which was so wisely decided upon the Croatian delegation. Burkina Faso wished to participate at a high level in this meeting, but since it coincides with our national holiday, we were not able to do so.

The search for lasting peace and effective collective security was at the very heart of the concerns and hopes of the founding fathers of the United Nations, who were firmly resolved to spare mankind the horrors of war and to build a community of nations the main orientations of which would be solidarity and cooperation. Over 60 years later, alas, that search remains an aspiration and a challenge that the international community must take up, given the many ongoing threats to the world.

One of the most serious threats today is certainly the threat of terrorism, which has managed to insinuate itself into and strike fear in the hearts of our lives and our societies, as the most recent attacks in Mumbai unfortunately demonstrate. I would like at this time to extend the sincere condolences of Burkina Faso to the families of the victims and to the Government and the people of India.

I would like to congratulate and thank you, Sir, most deeply for bringing us together today to discuss this issue, the importance of which the General Assembly recognized by inscribing it on its agenda in 1972 and has been considering every year since 1993.

This scourge by its very nature, methods and expressions, has shattered of many our certainties, and the international community has mobilized to find a swift and appropriate response. It is true that, for a variety of reasons, differences of view that are often deep-seated have sometimes hindered effective cooperation among States. However, we have to recognize that significant efforts have been made by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other institutions such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Maritime Organization, which have developed and strengthened many instruments, the latest being the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Plan of Action, adopted by the General Assembly.

We cannot pass over in silence the significant contribution made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its Terrorism Prevention Branch, which to date has provided technical assistance to over 115 States in the ratification and implementation of those instruments and in strengthening their national institutions in the prosecution and application of the law. The General Assembly should continue its efforts to strengthen the legal framework by finalizing the draft comprehensive terrorism convention, which has languished for a number of years.

For almost 10 years, the Security Council has initiated its activities, particularly after the unjustifiable attacks of 11 September 2001. The adoption of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), in particular, and the establishment of the committees pursuant to those resolutions and the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate are part of these activities. The work of the committees and their expert groups have helped, inter alia, to initiate and strengthen efforts system-wide.

Despite these initiatives, we have to recognize that threats to peace and security caused by terrorist acts have not abated much less been eliminated. Terrorist acts spare no continent, country or people. On several occasions, the United Nations itself has been targeted by terrorists. Given that situation, additional emergency measures are required.

With respect to strengthening the legal framework, the review of the implementation of the Global Strategy on 4 September this year highlighted the need for a comprehensive convention that would bring together all of the instruments in force, provide a clear and precise definition of the concepts and encourage non-selective implementation of those instruments, for terrorism is a common challenge to us all.

From a practical standpoint, ensuring consistency in the efforts of the Security Council, the General Assembly and all other bodies and institutions through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force established by the Secretary-General is essential.

We must honestly recognize that States shoulder some responsibility. Unfortunately, they have not always demonstrated the necessary political will to fight this scourge. Worse, they have not always had the courage to recognize that the root causes of terrorism are to be found in extreme poverty, selfishness and our own conduct resulting from intolerance and exclusion. As long as that situation continues, our efforts will be in vain.

Burkina Faso belongs to the African region of West Africa. The region was long regarded as having been spared by the terrorist threat, but it now directly faces a number of networks of organized crime, including terrorist networks, which the States of the region do not have the necessary resources to address. Widely intermingled populations, porous borders and the lack of infrastructure and monitoring bodies make these States, already fragile and weakened, particularly vulnerable.

I would thus appeal once again to our partners for substantial financial field and capacity-building assistance, in close cooperation with subregional and regional organizations. As with other aspects of maintaining international peace and security, the comparative advantage of these organizations, which are closer to realities on the ground, is real and cannot be ignored if we want to succeed.

In order to conquer terrorism, we must remain united and resolute. Our common strategy must therefore take account of the greatest values of humanity and respect human rights and all religious beliefs. It is also important that the great evils of poverty and social inequality be taken into account so that they are not exploited by terrorists. Burkina Faso strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stands ready to continue supporting all efforts of the international community to combat this scourge.

Accordingly, from 20 to 22 March 2007, we hosted the fourth Conference of the Ministers of Justice of Francophone African Countries on the ratification and implementation of international instruments against terrorism. The participating countries were able to consider the progress that they had made in adopting at the domestic level the legal instruments to which they are party as well as the submission of their reports to the various Security Council committees.

The Ouagadougou Declaration, which was adopted at the end of the meeting, stressed in particular the role of international cooperation as an important element in preventing and combating terrorism in accordance with obligations under international law, particularly the Charter of the United Nations, and other relevant instruments, particularly those relating to human rights, the rights of refugees and international humanitarian law.

Burkina Faso believes that, in taking up the global challenge of terrorism, we must make every effort to strengthen cooperation for development, including technical assistance.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Croatian delegation for submitting a draft presidential statement, which we, of course, fully support.

Mr. Terzi di Sant'Agata (Italy): I would like to express the sincere appreciation of my Government for this initiative and for the honour of having you, Sir, preside over the Security Council today.

The tragic events in Mumbai, with respect to which I would like to renew the condolences and the grief of Italy and the Italian people for so many innocent victims, prove once again that terrorism represents a fundamental threat to international peace and security. Effective counter-terrorist policies cannot be put together only in the heated aftermath of terrorist attacks. Instead, they require patient and tenacious work on which cooperation and mutual trust among countries must be built and strengthened.

Italy endorses the statement to be delivered by France on behalf of the European Union (EU). The threat of terrorism is intense and, unfortunately, will remain as such for the foreseeable future. Globalization and new technologies favour its spreading across borders, broadens the risk of a convergence among terrorist organizations and illegal trafficking, the illicit use of financial networks and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The threat is diversified, complex and continuously changing. It requires long-term political will, a global vision and the ability to adapt responses to varied scenarios.

In our view, the United Nations remains the most suitable framework for improving and better defining counter-terrorism policies. Initially intended to better regulate this matter, these policies have progressively been enhanced with new instruments and updated structures. The role of the United Nations is all the more crucial as the need is stronger for all Member States to give their support in implementing the necessary interventions.

For all these reasons, today's debate is important. In the fight against terrorists, we are not in a primeval era of cooperation among States and peoples. A Global Strategy agreed on by the entire membership exists and we must speed up the implementation of its four pillars. This Strategy should be implemented today, drawing on the entire United Nations system, including the three Security Council subsidiary bodies and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

The ratification of all 16 counter-terrorist conventions is a priority. These conventions translate into binding commitments which highlight the primacy of cooperation over individual sovereignties at a time when we acknowledge the indivisibility of peace and security in a globalized world. Full implementation of Security Council resolutions on this issue is not only our obligation, but what we all require.

The promotion and protection of human rights are also a priority, as is the rule of law, as integral parts of an effective counter-terrorist strategy. There must be neither safe havens nor impunity for terrorists. Technical assistance should be made available to countries that need it, as well as an assured means for victims to seek the justice that would allow for compassion to be translated into solidarity.

Rescuing failing States is also crucial for the achievement of United Nations-recognized human rights and for the security agenda. Prevention and early detection of extremists and radicalization, to which the younger generation is particularly susceptible, are needed, as are more effective mechanisms of information exchange, law enforcement coordination and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

The European Union has a set of instruments for judicial cooperation among its States which has already been proved effective in many cases. After the terrorist attacks in Madrid and London, for example, direct collaboration among European judges led to the arrest in Italy of some of the perpetrators and their immediate delivery to Spain and the United Kingdom.

The challenge we are faced with today can be won. To reach this goal, all countries need to make a long-term and consistent effort. We need resolute international cooperation based on clear strategies and mutual trust. We must stop heinous crimes from building walls of hostility and mistrust among countries and peoples.

Italy fully supports today's draft presidential statement, and the call for solidarity it should contain, reiterating the determination of the Security Council to combat all forms of terrorism.

Mr. Khalilzad (United States of America): On behalf of the United States, I would like to thank you, President Mesić, and the Croatian delegation for holding this important debate highlighting the threat we all face from terrorism and the efforts of United Nations counter-terrorism programmes to help overcome it. We also welcome the presence of the Secretary-General.

I would also like to commend Ambassador Jurica for the outstanding contribution that he has made as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Terrorism in all its forms is one of the greatest security challenges confronting the international community. The recent terrorist attacks specifically targeting civilians in Mumbai, India, serve as a stark reminder of the threat we all face from terrorism. We stand in solidarity and partnership with the Indian people against the terrorists.

No geographic region, country or international organization is immune. Acts of terrorism threaten all people and all nations. If we, as Member States, are to be successful in our common struggle against terrorism, we must work together in a strategic and coordinated manner.

Today, I would like to make three points. First, the United States strongly supports the central role of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism and wants to strengthen the ability and resolve of the United Nations to play a constructive and effective role in it. The United Nations must continue to improve coordination among United Nations counter-terrorism programmes and identify concrete ways in which the various parts of the United Nations system can contribute to the global counter-terrorism campaign, ensuring that all relevant United Nations bodies and organs are focused on making practical contributions to the global effort.

While the Security Council must play a key role, many others in the United Nations system can and should make contributions to the broader counter-terrorism effort, whether through capacity-building, education, economic development or helping address the conditions that terrorists and extremists exploit.

Secondly, all Member States need to work together in close cooperation to create an increasingly less permissive environment for terrorists. We urge all Member States to comply with their international obligations to deny terrorists safe havens and to bring to justice those who finance, plan, facilitate or perpetrate terrorist acts. We also urge Member States to make all efforts to deny terrorists the benefits of any concessions or financial benefits obtained though hostage-taking or other illicit activities.

We recognize that there is a need to help some Member States build the capacity to fulfil their counter-terrorism obligations and meet international counter-terrorism standards, with the long-term goal of increasingly reducing conditions conducive to terrorism.

In 2007, through our Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program, the United States conducted 266 training activities that included over 4,500 participants from 64 countries, emphasizing law enforcement under the rule of law and respect for human rights.

We have offered extensive counter-terrorism finance capacity-building efforts in 45 countries through the Counter-terrorist Finance Training Program to improve countries' abilities to investigate, identify and interdict the flow of money to terrorist groups. We have also provided border security training and capacity-building in 23 countries through the Terrorist Interdiction Program to help constrain terrorist mobility and enhance international cooperation on biometric data collection.

In addition, the United States is also focused on increasing economic development by helping Member States tackle poverty, unemployment, weak institutions and corruption — thus helping stymie terrorists' ability

to exploit these conditions for recruiting and other purposes.

Finally, the United States welcomes the Security Council's draft presidential statement on terrorism, which is to be issued today. The unanimous support for this statement is a testament to the collective will of the Council to address the threat posed by terrorists to international peace and security.

We also welcome the Council's reaffirmation of the importance of countering radicalization and violent extremism, and we strongly support United Nations efforts to better protect young people from manipulation by violent extremists. The use of suicide bombings by terrorists is a particularly barbarous act that indiscriminately targets and often victimizes the most vulnerable of our citizens, including women, children and the elderly. We strongly condemn the use of suicide bombings and hostage-taking as acts of terrorism that cannot be justified or excused under any circumstances.

Once again, the United States thanks the Croatian delegation for holding this debate, and we look forward to hearing the views of others.

Sir John Sawers (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting today. I remember that, in the aftermath of the horrific events of 11 September 2001, you, Sir, were among the first of the world's leaders to call for coordinated global action against terrorism. Your commitment to countering terrorism is well known, and your choice of subject for this thematic debate, made before the recent appalling attacks in Mumbai, shows that your vision remains and that your commitment to this vital cause is unwavering.

Across the world, many thousands of innocent people of all races and faiths have been victims of terrorism. These are criminal acts for which there is no justification, and the Council rightly denounces the use of terror in pursuit of political aims.

The attack in Mumbai at the end of last month was an attack on us all. Democracy in India is vibrant, and Mumbai is one of the world's most diverse cities. The terrorists responsible seemed to be intent on destroying democracy and diversity. We must all focus on helping the Government of India in whatever ways we can to investigate these attacks and bring those responsible to justice.

This is now a sensitive time for the region. We look to the leaders of Pakistan and India to work with each other. The words of their leaders, as responsible statesmen, are important to show their determination that the terrorists will not further divide their two countries. We welcome the initial steps taken by Pakistan in the past few days. We urge the Government of Pakistan to cooperate with the Indian investigation, and we urge the two of them to work together in bringing those responsible to justice.

Terrorism threatens international peace and security, and that means that the Security Council has a role to play. We must be robust in our practical responses. Through national and coordinated international action, we must disrupt terrorist networks and deny terrorists the safe havens and funds that they need in order to operate. The United Nations sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban are important tools. In resolution 1822 (2008), we improved the procedures for listing and de-listing individuals in order to address concerns that have been raised and to ensure that the sanctions list is as up to date and effective as possible.

The United Nations also has an important role to play in helping build Member States' capacity to tackle terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Committee — which, Mr. President, is very ably chaired by your Ambassador here — has, where requested, assessed the counter-terrorism capabilities of individual Member States and helped Member States to improve them. Recently, we have seen much closer cooperation among the various committees dealing with terrorism to promote capacity-building in United Nations Member States and for the effective implementation of all Security Council resolutions aimed at countering terrorism.

My country is playing a full role. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) recently visited London as part of its programme of visits for a full exchange on how we in the United Kingdom tackle terrorism. That was the first such visit to a permanent member of the Security Council.

The CTED team saw how we are revising and developing our own counter-terrorism strategy to build on successes and to prepare us for new challenges. Central to the development of our strategy has been to establish an Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism to develop and implement the strategy and to coordinate efforts across Government — at the

community level, at the national level and internationally — to deliver the impact we need.

We have increased our resources devoted to combating terrorism in the police and intelligence agencies. These new resources have been used to disrupt terrorist conspiracies in my country and overseas. Since the beginning of last year, 81 people have been found guilty of terrorism-related offences in 33 major cases. We are also working to counter radicalization within our communities at home, and we are developing a joint counter-radicalization programme with the Government of Pakistan so that we can share with each other the lessons we are learning.

Sanctions, law enforcement action and capacity-building are vital, but they are still not enough. We need to show that, where there are justified grievances, they will be addressed by political means. We cannot allow disputes to persist so that they are used as pretexts for terrorism. Over the long term, we have to continue to improve access to justice, tackle political disenfranchisement and develop better educational and vocational opportunities. Those are important goals in their own right. They also address issues that can help prevent vulnerable individuals in vulnerable communities from being lured into violent extremism.

The international community has to address the other conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Restoring stability to countries and regions mired in conflict, strengthening human rights, empowering individuals and promoting the role of women in society — again, these are all worth doing in their own right, but they also remove the pretexts that terrorists use to justify their actions.

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving us the opportunity once again to review our work in this vital area. Permit me to add that I would like to associate the United Kingdom with the statement to be made shortly by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Natalegawa (Indonesia): I wish to thank the delegation of Croatia for convening this important and timely thematic debate. My delegation is honoured to see you, Sir, the President of Croatia, presiding over our meeting today. We are also very pleased to welcome the participation of the Secretary-General in this meeting.

Despite enhanced efforts by Governments the world over, the threat of terrorism continues. The latest heinous and cowardly attack in Mumbai, India, demonstrated that terrorist groups are not in a state of idleness. On the contrary, they continue to reinvent themselves with different means of committing atrocities. They seek to improve their methods of causing massive casualties with the aim of spreading terror in order to paralyse societies, destabilize political systems and make us succumb to the path of violence.

Our global effort is clearly facing more difficult and complex challenges. We need to be not only decisive in our policies, but also innovative and practical in our approach. The pace of our cooperation must match the terrorists' capacity to wreak havoc and destruction.

First and foremost, efforts to overcome terrorism must continue to be multifaceted in nature. The terrorist threat is not a war that can be won through the sheer application of force. Instead, there is a need for a comprehensive yet integrated approach, encompassing intelligence and law enforcement; the legislative framework; foreign policy, including public diplomacy; and also socio-economic policy. All those elements are complementary and mutually reinforcing. We should not favour one tool while neglecting others. It is important that the implementation of those tools be well calibrated and fine-tuned.

Secondly, no country can go it alone. Terrorists are not encumbered by national borders; hence the critical need for international cooperation. That includes the sharing of information, intelligence and best practices. Capacity-building, as a core element of the global counter-terrorism effort, needs to be sustained. The Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, for example, has provided structured training for law enforcement officers in the Asia-Pacific region. The Bali Counter-Terrorism Process, too, has established strong bonds of collaboration among legal and law enforcement practitioners in the region.

Moreover, Indonesia has pursued a deliberate policy of building a multifaceted web of counter-terrorism cooperation: bilateral, subregional, regional and inter-regional.

In South-east Asia this common effort reached a high point with the signing of the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism by the ASEAN leaders at the twelfth ASEAN Summit in Cebu, the Philippines, in January 2007. In essence, the Convention's aim is to deny terrorists space and a foothold to launch their attacks.

Of course, such building blocks of cooperation would not be complete without an overarching multilateral cooperation effort through the United Nations, including the Security Council and General Assembly. The need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be evident. However, it is important that the global multilateral frameworks do not reinvent the wheel, but rather that they build on and promote synergy with existing national, bilateral and regional efforts.

Not least, Indonesia firmly believes in a democratic response. Our efforts must be viewed as legitimate. They must respect the integrity of international law, human rights and the Charter. In our view, undermining the principles of international law and human rights would not only be counterproductive, but would also erode the political legitimacy necessary to sustain global efforts to fight terrorism.

Effective efforts also require a perspective that is alert to the conditions associated with acts of terrorism. We need to be conscious of the need to address root causes, including prolonged unresolved conflicts. Indonesia wishes to reiterate that conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes are essential premises in our common effort to eradicate terrorism. The Security Council, as mandated by the Charter, should devote its political energy to resolve those unresolved conflicts.

Effective efforts also require the use of soft-power. As a global community, we should work together to delegitimize terrorism by strengthening democratic values and promoting tolerance and pluralism. We need to take specific measures to steer people away from extremism. We need to promote and facilitate dialogue among community groups. We need to give voice to moderation.

Against this backdrop, let me end by emphasizing the imperative to reject the association of terrorism with particular nations, regions or religions. Dialogue among civilizations must be sustained to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures as provided for in resolution 1624 (2005). Such dialogue can bridge diverse cultures, and facilitate understanding and cooperation across communities and religions. Only through such an avenue can we truly have a winning chance. The United Nations machinery, as part of the equation in the overall global struggle against terrorism, should play a leading role in this regard.

On a final note, the victims of terrorism must not be forgotten. We are grateful that the Secretary-General has made reference to this point in his earlier statement.

Mr. Churkin (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, allow me to welcome you here today as the President of the Security Council. We also appreciate the presence here today of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The convening of this meeting of the Security Council offers us an opportunity to consider once again some very topical issues: how the international community must act in the face of the global threat of terrorism today and how we can strengthen solidarity against terrorism without which it is impossible to ensure international peace and security.

The heinous attack in Mumbai was evidence of the scale of the continuing threat and it was also a serious reminder of the shared responsibility we all bear for eradicating terrorism. The Russian Federation confirms its position of principle, namely, unconditional condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We believe it is the United Nations that must provide solid political leadership and coordination of international cooperation in combating terrorism.

In an increasingly interdependent world, strengthening the central role of the United Nations in building the political, legal and organizational foundations for counter-terrorism security is essential — there is no other option. There are different ways of looking back at the road travelled in recent years by the United Nations and the Security Council in solving the complex and multifaceted problem of terrorism, but it is quite self-evident that without those efforts the world today would be even less safe.

The Security Council played a key role in establishing a first line of defence. It prescribed initial measures for States to take to strengthen their counter-terrorism potential. I am referring, of course, to the

fundamental resolution 1373 (2001) and some subsequent decisions. We attach paramount importance to strengthening the potential for the political leadership of the Council through its subsidiary anti-terrorist bodies, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1267 and 1540 Committees. Those Committees complement each other as instruments in the fight against terrorism.

We have to enhance the effectiveness of steps taken by the Council to prevent the terrorist threat. We have to help it develop its dialogue with States on implementing the relevant resolutions and on the timely assistance to States to carry out the obligations provided for in Security Council resolutions. In practical terms, it is still extremely relevant for our common security to expose and neutralize terror networks, to block the movement of financial flows, to stop other support to terrorists and to put an end to the safe havens they have set up.

Many of these issues have now become clearer to us than they were before. For example, Russia no longer has to, as it did a few years ago, convince its partners about the dangerous mix of drug trafficking and terrorism, especially in Afghanistan. The Security Council must continue giving paramount attention to reacting effectively to terrorist threats and to encouraging the development of international cooperation on the topic.

At the same time, we have to ensure that law enforcement measures against terror are supplemented by efforts on a broad scale to prevent terrorism, inter alia by trying to eliminate the various social factors that fuel terrorism. We have to develop a dialogue between civilizations and between religions and we have to actively counter the ideology of violence and extremism. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly, offers us a way of moving to a comprehensive United Nations system of eliminating international terrorism rather than just reacting to it, and we must make full use of the potential of that Strategy. We support every part of the Strategy and we call for active implementation. We intend to do our utmost to further this process.

There is one huge potential that has not yet been used fully by most States: the development of a partnership between the private and public sectors in counter-terrorism. It is not just from our own experience that we see that if States meet certain conditions, then the business community is quite willing to cooperate.

The future of combating international terrorism is, as we see it, directly related to building a more foreseeable and stable world order based on international law. I think it is clear to everybody today that terrorism is not an enemy which, when fighting, you can draw the battle lines on military maps. If we are to talk about the real direction for stopping terrorism, one of the most important conditions is a comprehensive strengthening of the international legal counter-terrorism basis. There are still lacunae, for example, it has become increasingly clear that we need further international legal regulations so as to ensure that cyberspace is never used for terrorist purposes.

At the political level, it is crucial to keep and strengthen the broad international coalition formed in response to the terrorist act of September 2001. The Russian Federation will continue to work closely and actively with other States to strengthen the international community and the United Nations potential to deal with issues relating to insecurity resulting from terrorism.

Mr. Grauls (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, allow me, first and foremost, to welcome your presence here amongst us today to preside over the thematic debate, and to welcome the participation of the Secretary-General of our Organization. His presence adds a special dimension to our debate.

The tragic events that occurred in Mumbai just two weeks ago have once again reminded us that terrorism is a reality that spares no country and remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. In this regard, I would like to recall that Belgium firmly condemns all terrorist attacks, including those that were perpetrated in Mumbai, which targeted innocent civilians. We convey our condolences to the grieving families. Belgium also would like to express its solidarity with the people and authorities of India and with every country that is dealing with the effects of terrorism.

Your initiative, Sir, to launch this thematic debate is therefore particularly timely, and it underscores the resolve of the international community to eradicate this scourge. Indeed, it is only through a holistic strategy and unwavering cooperation that we will be able to do

so. Further efforts are, without a doubt, still necessary in this regard. The world must deal with individuals and organizations that do not hesitate to carry out attacks against thousands of innocent victims in an attempt to further their agenda. These attacks are the expression of inadmissible hatred and rage. The international community must respond to them. The criminals must be detained and brought to justice. The fight against terrorism must be waged tirelessly and across the board by attacking terrorist networks and their sources of financing and by doing everything possible to prevent their actions, but also by addressing the factors that could fuel extremism and lead to terrorism. Moreover, we should recall that terrorism cannot be associated with any religion or belief.

In this context, the United Nations plays a central role and, when it comes to this matter, shoulder the responsibilities that fall to a universal organization, as provided for in the Charter. The Member States, through the intervention of the General Assembly, are committed to better coordinating their counter-terrorism initiatives and to developing legal standards. The Security Council is also fighting terrorism actively through its resolutions. The Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on weapons of mass destruction are essential bodies in these efforts.

At the same time, a number of United Nations programmes, offices and agencies are involved in specific operational actions aimed at supporting the initiatives by Member States. The Secretary-General referred to that in his introductory statement.

In order to further consolidate and improve upon these activities, the General Assembly has defined a United Nation Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in order to combat this scourge. The European Union has also defined a plan of action and a strategy to tackle terrorism on a global scale. Belgium fully endorses these two strategies, which are complementary.

In my country, attempted attacks have also been thwarted. Networks have been dismantled and trials have been held. By providing an arsenal of new measures and establishing new structures to fight against terrorism, Belgium has implemented European decisions and United Nations resolutions.

Strengthening our counter-terrorism capacity must remain a priority for the international community. All the initiatives to further sensitize and involve States at the four corners of the globe must be promoted. The role of regional and subregional organizations is essential in this regard.

As will be stated by the representative of France in his intervention, to be made shortly on behalf of the European Union — a statement that my delegation supports in full — respect for human rights and the primacy of the rule of law are fundamental elements in the fight against terrorism. The protection of these fundamental rights and freedoms is a moral and legal obligation. It also corresponds to our interests and is a central element of any effective and sustainable counter-terrorism strategy. The fight against terrorism cannot be waged to the detriment of our principles, of our values, of human rights or of democratic institutions; that is precisely what those who threaten us seek to destroy. That is why Belgium welcomes the fact that the human rights dimension has been taken into account in the actions and decisions of the United Nations. The Global Strategy includes a human rights and rule of law pillar, and the Security Council has systematically reminded States since 2003 "that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law ... in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law" (*resolution 1456 (2003), annex, para. 6*).

It is essential that there be clearer and more equitable procedures with regard to the listing and de-listing of names on the lists of individuals suspected of terrorist acts who are subjected to restrictive measures. By continuing to improve upon those procedures, as was done in the case of resolution 1822 (2008), the Security Council is not only strengthening the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime, but is also strengthening its authority, its credibility and, as a result, its effectiveness in this field.

We are thus responding to the various legal procedures that have been introduced, particularly in Europe, because of the current procedural gaps in the existing regime. Every measure that is taken to establish clear and transparent procedures will strengthen the legitimacy of the United Nations sanctions system and the authority of the Security Council and the impact of its measures. By improving procedures, the Council is reaffirming its role as the lynchpin of the international sanctions system and will strengthen the adherence of Member States to that

system. Belgium therefore calls upon the Council to consolidate and strengthen its efforts in this regard, in addition to the provisions of resolution 1822 (2008), in order to heighten the effectiveness and transparency of the sanctions procedures of the 1267 Committee.

Today's debate has allowed us to underscore international solidarity in the fight against terrorism. It is crucial that this solidarity result in everyday specific actions that will allow us to prevent new tragedies. While repression is an indispensable dimension to thwart the intentions of those who are ready to make use of terrorism, all preventative measures taken are in the long term the best strategy to eradicate this scourge. Any United Nations declaration, strategy or resolution will send a strong signal of the determination and unity of the international community. That is why my delegation will support the text of the presidential statement to be read at the end of this debate.

Mr. Arias (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): First and foremost, on behalf of Panama, allow me to thank you, Mr. President, and Ambassador Jurica and the delegation of Croatia for providing us this important opportunity to consider and debate on the most effective manner to combat the scourge of terrorism. We welcome the presence of the Secretary-General in this debate, which demonstrates his personal commitment in the fight against terrorism.

For the most part — but with a few significant deviations such as the two world wars and their causes and consequences — in the modern world human beings have been able to live more or less harmoniously, among themselves and with their environment, in accordance with what the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau called the social contract.

However, today we are experiencing new forms of social divisions that are having an impact on the peaceful coexistence between human beings, which forces us to reflect in a profound way. I should like to begin with the most violent of all, namely, the growing disregard for our environment that, if unabated, will radically transform life on the planet. I could also mention acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing, ongoing violence against women and children and the effects of excessive sales of small arms and light weapons and terrorism.

Panama believes that terrorism is defined by the carrying out of acts of violence that indiscriminately injure or kill innocent civilians on the pretext of a greater good. Panama condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of who commits it, including Governments and where and for what purpose it is committed, including to combat foreign occupation.

The Security Council has contributed meaningfully to the efforts of the Organization to combat terrorism. Nevertheless, the level of planning and sophistication of the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai, which were an attack on all of India and on the entire international community, illustrate that our efforts and precautions are still not enough. That obliges us to more effectively use all the means at our disposal to eliminate terrorism. Above and beyond the use of force, economic and financial measures and the exchange of information and intelligence, combating terrorism also requires that the international community understand and combat the conditions that give rise to terrorism, while fully respecting human rights.

In that connection, Panama would like to reiterate the need to establish national and international norms to make it possible to prosecute and punish, by way of example, all those who are in any way linked to the commission of terrorist acts. We should do so while observing the principles enshrined in international humanitarian law and international human rights and development instruments. Doing otherwise would be tantamount to legitimizing the methods used by terrorism to weaken democracy, the rule of law and the full enjoyment of human rights. In other words, it would mean violating the same rights we employ to justify combating terrorism.

Mr. Ettalhi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, Mr. President, allow me to say how honoured we are to see you presiding over the work of the Security Council today. We would also like to welcome the presence among us today of the Secretary-General. I also wish to commend your country's delegation, Sir, for having convened this meeting and chosen this subject for our consideration. Following the terrorist attacks on Mumbai, the entire world has once again seen the destruction that terrorism can inflict and the magnitude of the threat it poses for peace. This meeting is also taking place following the terrorist acts inflicted on Palestinians in Hebron by Israeli extremists.

The concept paper (see S/2008/738) that has kindly been prepared and circulated by your country's delegation, Mr. President, for which we are very grateful, has served to establish the framework and objectives for our debate, namely, an exchange of views on the relationship between global security and international terrorism in order to revitalize and strengthen efforts to combat terrorism and bolster the leading role of the United Nations in global counter-terrorism. It is indeed a well-known fact that we all have a common objective: establishing a world of peace and security for all peoples and eradicating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whether committed by States, individuals or organizations, as well as addressing its causes and symptoms. Nevertheless, I regret to say that there continue to be disagreements about how to achieve those goals.

Although my country appreciates the progress made and the work done by the Council, seven years following the emergence of unprecedented solidarity and momentum in combating terrorism, the Council's efforts are still just a series of partial reactions to circumstances focused narrowly on security only. In that period, the emphasis has been on preventing and combating terrorism. As emphasized by the concept paper, we cannot achieve the goal of maintaining international peace and security merely by declaring war on terrorism. Terrorism is a multidimensional phenomenon that cannot be effectively addressed through punitive measures alone. In fact, preventive measures and a flexible and comprehensive approach are needed.

There have been several efforts in the Council to achieve consensus on a set of draft resolutions. The Council's committees and working groups have played a prominent role in various bodies of the Council. While they have had considerable achievements, they have nevertheless worked within the confines of fixed mandates drafted in line with partial measures and the narrow focus of combating and preventing terrorism. Increased participation in those bodies has sometimes served to sap synergy from their efforts. In particular, it has served as a drag on the momentum of the efforts of the international community, as represented by the General Assembly. In some instances, that has had an impact on effectiveness and efficiency in combating the phenomenon of terrorism, as well as on active cooperation between Member States and the United Nations.

Libya believes that there is a need to assess and reconsider the steps taken to prevent and combat terrorism in recent years. Without going into detail about all the relevant measures, we believe that preventing the financing of terrorism must be given special attention and should be the subject of more comprehensive and effective measures. We also think that it is incumbent upon the United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, to adopt more robust measures to oversee flows of financing moving through transparent financial institutions. Banking practices in some countries and in some so-called free zones require particular attention from the international community in order to bring an end to suspicious financial transactions that can serve to finance terrorism. In addition, the granting of asylum to third-country citizens must be subject to controls that ensure that asylum is based solely on humanitarian reasons and is not used for any other ulterior motive.

Over the past years, we have emphasized the combating and prevention of terrorism at the expense of basic aspects of the problem. We have not discussed the reasons and causes for the spread of terrorism, building the capacities of Member States or respect for human rights of all and the rule of law: the basic and important principles that have been adopted by Members of the United Nations in the context of a global strategy to combat terrorism. We are still waiting for effective practical measures that will deal with the circumstances and causes of the spread of terrorism. Libya believes that our agreement on removing the justifications of terrorism must not be at the expense of dealing objectively with its causes. The causes for the discontent that feeds violence and counter-violence include: occupation, denying the legitimacy of fighting against occupation, making charges against peoples and their cultures, applying double standards in the application of international legitimacy and the injustices that have been suffered by the Palestinians and other peoples.

Still more effort is needed to develop technical assistance in a manner that will strengthen and build the capacity of Member States to respond to their practical needs in combating terrorism. We appreciate the development of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council in this respect, and it is our hope that technical assistance provided within the context of the United Nations, as an alternative to bilateral assistance, will be developed. We also commend the efforts of

those organs responsible for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the cooperation among United Nations institutions and specialized agencies.

There is no doubt that respect for the human rights of all and for the rule of law are the cornerstones of any effective strategy for combating terrorism. National and international measures within such strategies must conform with obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, the laws of refugees and international humanitarian law.

In brief, it is incumbent on all of us to strengthen international solidarity to enhance the leading role of the United Nations in combating terrorism. This is the objective of our debate today: to implement the global strategy to combat terrorism in all its aspects and dimensions and to expedite the conclusion of a comprehensive treaty to combat terrorism and to reach a clear definition of this phenomenon.

In conclusion, I wish to commend the delegation of Croatia for preparing the draft presidential statement before us. We support it and we look forward to adopting it at the end of our meeting.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): At the outset, we welcome the President of the Republic of Croatia and thank him for presiding over this meeting.

I would like to express South Africa's appreciation for the convening of this important debate on terrorism. It comes at a time when we have witnessed terrorist attacks in various parts of the world and, in particular, the recent heinous attacks in Mumbai. My delegation reiterates its condolences to the Government of India and the relatives of all those who lost their lives. We also welcome the Secretary-General and thank him for his statement.

South Africa condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever perpetrated and for whatever cause. We are firmly committed to addressing, in multilateral fora and in accordance with human rights and international law, the threat posed by terrorism and other forms of international crime. Consequently, we welcome the unanimous adoption and reaffirmation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which provides a holistic and multifaceted response that is premised on the respect for human rights and the rule of law. The Strategy represents a welcome departure from the security-centric paradigm and recognizes that it is important to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism in their own right and also as part of an effective anti-terrorism strategy. The Strategy also builds on the international consensus that terrorism cannot be ascribed to any particular religion or culture.

Recognizing that it is up to each country and subregion to contextualize the Global Strategy and to make it meaningful to the diverse range of local actors required for its successful implementation, South Africa recently hosted a national workshop on the Global Strategy. The workshop raised awareness of the Global Strategy amongst Government and civil society actors and generated a number of useful proposals and interesting ideas. For example, it was argued that relevant international human rights instruments, such as the Convention against Torture, ought to be included in the list of instruments that all countries are urged to ratify pursuant to their counter-terrorism obligations. Speakers condemned the practice of some countries to draw up their own national terrorism lists, which may be subject to political abuse and may themselves constitute a source of radicalization and extremism by unfairly targeting entire communities or countries. It was also pointed out that there is a need to reverse the development-versus-counterterrorism debate by exploring where counterterrorism fits into the development agenda and not the other way around.

Building on existing international solidarity and cooperation is the key to progress in addressing the scourge of terrorism. It is therefore important that we redouble our efforts to finalize the comprehensive convention against international terrorism by reaching agreement on a definition of terrorism and that we prevent the abuse of the counterterrorism label to advance political agendas. International solidarity ought also to include the avoidance of unsubstantiated usage of damaging terms such as "terrorist safe havens" and refraining from the issuance of factually inaccurate travel advisories against other countries whose cooperation and assistance is required in addressing the terror threat. All too often those statements are directed against those developing countries that pose the least threat. It should also be borne in mind that developing countries are disproportionately affected by terrorist attacks, irrespective of whether they are the intended target, and the impact on investment and tourism in the poorest countries can be particularly devastating.

As stressed in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, respect for human rights is an essential part of our counterterrorism efforts. It is not possible to claim the moral high ground while abusing basic rights and compromising laws built up over centuries in the interests of political expediency. Consequently, we cannot remain silent when rights are ignored and individuals are subjected to unlawful detention, torture and assassination.

United Nations Security Council sanctions have to be capable of withstanding legal scrutiny, including on the question of due process. There are a number of legal challenges in various parts of the world to the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime, notably the recent judgment of the European Court of Justice in the cases of Al Barakaat and Mr. Kadi. These challenges should put the Security Council on notice that it cannot proceed as if it were business as usual.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you once again for convening this debate and to express our support for the draft presidential statement.

Mr. Zhang Yesui (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): At the outset, we thank the President of the Republic of Croatia for presiding over the open debate today. We also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his participation in our debate.

The presidential statement that you, Sir, will issue on behalf of the Security Council fully reflects the international community's consensus on counter-terrorism and has the support of the Chinese delegation.

A series of alarming acts of terrorism took place recently in Mumbai, claiming numerous innocent victims. The Chinese delegation conveys its wholehearted condolences to the victims. These cruel realities remind us once again that terrorism remains a potent threat to the peace and security of the international community. As the heart of the international collective security machinery, the Security Council should play a central role in the international fight against terrorism.

Over the past few years, the Council has adopted a series of resolutions and statements on counter-terrorism that create a solid legal basis for the international community's common struggle against terrorism. The Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) have made fruitful efforts in the implementation of the relevant resolutions. The Chinese delegation hopes that the three Committees will further incorporate the voices of all Member States, particularly the developing countries, into their work in order to ensure that the Security Council's counter-terrorism mechanisms will be better able to meet the needs of the broader membership.

Terrorism is a common threat to the international community. It is imperative to continue to enhance multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation within the United Nations framework. Recently, the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 62/272 on the review and assessment of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, demonstrating the deep solidarity and firm resolve of the Member States with respect to counter-terrorism. China believes that all United Nations Members should strive to enhance counter-terrorism measures and to eradicate the root causes of terrorism. They should seek to eradicate poverty, promote development and, by encouraging dialogue among religions and civilizations, eliminate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, thereby implementing the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

China supports the Security Council's three counter-terrorism Committees' active participation in the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the context of their respective mandates so as to ensure the coordination of the Council's counter-terrorism efforts with those of the General Assembly, which will consolidate the United Nations central role in the international struggle against terrorism.

The Member States are the true owners of the implementation of all United Nations counter-terrorism resolutions. Their resolve and capacities to fight terrorism determine the degree to which those resolutions are implemented. However, inadequate resources and counter-terrorism capacities have made many countries, especially the developing countries, unable fully to honour their counter-terrorism obligations and have thereby seriously limited the international community's achievements in the struggle against terrorism.

China hopes that the international community will devote greater attention to counter-terrorism capacity-building and invest further resources in providing counter-terrorism assistance that answers the

genuine needs of the developing countries and helps them to improve their counter-terrorism capacities expeditiously. That will ensure a solid basis for the implementation of all United Nations counter-terrorism resolutions.

The rise of terrorism has complex political, economic and social roots. China has therefore consistently called for integrated counter-terrorism measures and emphasized both the prevention of terrorist acts and the elimination of the causes of terrorism in an effective effort to address the symptoms and causes of that scourge. In that way, we will be able to eradicate terrorism at its roots.

Mr. Lacroix (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, my delegation wholeheartedly thanks you, Sir, and your country for having organized this debate during the Croatian presidency of the Security Council in December. I welcome your leadership in today's debate, as well as the presence of the Secretary-General.

I have the honour to speak not only for France but also on behalf of the European Union and the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Montenegro; as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, which align themselves with this declaration.

Despite our best efforts, the threat of terrorism is as real as ever, as the long and bitter litany of terrorist acts that occur around the world reminds us. The sophistication and determination of the terrorists who struck at the heart of Mumbai a few days ago attests to that.

To combat terrorism, we must do more and we must do better. To that end, we must first understand the mechanics of the global terrorism that, here in New York, opened a new and bloody era in the history of terrorism. Terrorism is global in its scope and in its ability to blend in with globalization and to change with modern times, despite the archaic nature of its ideological referents. It is also global in its ability to defy and threaten our States, despite the fact that there are probably only a few hundred, or perhaps a few thousand, terrorists scattered around the world.

The European Union regards terrorism as one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. Our duty is to combat that scourge using all possible means. To do so, however, we must overcome the deadly traps that terrorism has set for us: fear, division and renunciation. Fear is abdication and defeat. Division is reflected in the rifts between peoples, cultures and religions that terrorists seek explicitly to provoke. Renunciation is the abandonment of the principles and values — dialogue, peace and human rights — on which our democracies and, of course, our Organization are built.

For the European Union, respect for human rights and the rule of law are fundamental elements in the fight against terrorism. It is a case not of arbitrary power directed against indiscriminate violence, but rather of the rule of law set against crime. It is by respecting our values, law, public freedoms and the use of clear and fair procedures that we will defeat terrorism.

For the European Union, the United Nations is the natural framework for developing standards and structures to strengthen international cooperation against terrorism. The United Nations has a central role to play in this respect. From that perspective, considerable efforts have been undertaken. The main tools have been developed: 16 international counter-terrorism instruments, several wide-ranging Security Council resolutions, three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, and the recent Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to which all United Nations Member States have subscribed. With those texts, the United Nations has developed both the key principles of an effective global fight against terrorism and the institutional and legal instruments necessary to that end.

Through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force established by the Secretary-General, and in which the three Council Committees and their teams of experts are actively involved, the United Nations system has begun to develop a framework for integrated support for the implementation of the Strategy.

I would now like to emphasize some of the challenges we must meet, as an international community, in order to confront terrorism. We must first pursue the important work to address more generally the conditions that lead to the spread of terrorism. Strengthening education, development assistance and efforts to resolve crises and regional

conflicts are one objective in themselves, but this work also focuses on the elements of frustration and injustice that terrorist propaganda and recruitment exploit for their murderous ends. Here too, the role of the United Nations is essential.

We must also ensure that the international community as a whole and the individual Member States remain mobilized in combating terrorism. This fight is not waged only in emergencies, when violence breaks out for all to see. It requires determined and patient work over time. How can we ensure that this work receives the attention and political support it requires? In that regard, Mr. President, your initiative is a major step in the right direction.

Regional organizations also have a role to play. The strengthening of regional cooperation against terrorism is also a factor of integration, as evidenced by the adoption of the European arrest warrant that played a key role in the fight of both Spain and France against ETA, which unfortunately again struck the Basque country last week and murdered there. Initiatives have been taken in other regions of the world, recently in South-East Asia and West Africa. La Francophonie has also drawn up an important convention on judicial cooperation. The European Union welcomes those efforts.

The primary responsibility for the fight against terrorism, of course, lies with States. The States of the European Union are committed to fully implementing Security Council resolutions. The same is true for the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The European Union itself developed a strategy against terrorism and an action plan whose implementation is closely monitored and assessed.

The European Union calls upon all States to redouble their efforts to fully implement the Security Council resolutions and the recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to become parties to all international instruments against terrorism and to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in an integrated manner. As reports have confirmed, on a global level we are far from achieving this goal, and in some parts of the world the efforts being made are still insufficient. From this perspective, nobody today can afford to remain idle or feel immune to terrorism, regardless of their region or level of development.

The Security Council did not hesitate to impose sanctions on States harbouring or assisting terrorists. This firm line must be maintained and strengthened, particularly through the work undertaken by the Council's subsidiary bodies on non-compliance, in order to distinguish between States that are deemed able but unwilling to meet their obligations and those that do not have the means to do so.

In the face of a global threat that is capable of exploiting all vulnerabilities, two key issues must be addressed very carefully. How can the international community prevent territories from becoming safe havens for terrorists? How to ensure that States that have the political will but lack the means receive advice and support?

The European Union is committed to those goals through its various political and financial instruments, in particular the European Security and Defence Policy and the Instrument for Stability. The same is true of its member States, through their bilateral programmes or their support for United Nations programmes for the consolidation of peace or assistance in the field of anti-terrorist legislation. But given the magnitude of these challenges, the United Nations system should reflect more broadly on the support it could provide as regards capacity-building and assisting States in the fight against terrorism.

In conclusion, my delegation would again like to emphasize the paradox of terrorism, as it must be fully understood if we are to be effective. No more than a few hundred — perhaps a few thousand — people scattered throughout the world are defying our 192 nations, and yet they have managed to turn this weakness into a strength. We must strive to reduce the impact of their attacks and to treat them as the criminals they are. We owe that to all victims of terrorism. But as States, we must also strengthen measures of the struggle against terrorism, ensure their consistency and increase our cooperation. It is a matter of raising the level of anti-terrorism systems throughout the world and enhancing their inter-operability.

My delegation supports the draft presidential statement and the call for solidarity contained therein.

Mr. Hoang Chi Trung (Viet Nam): Let me first express our appreciation of Croatia's initiative in organizing this thematic debate. We welcome in particular your presence in New York, Mr. President, to preside over this meeting. It demonstrates your country's strong dedication to the work of the Security

Council, as well as to the common efforts of the United Nations to combat the scourge of international terrorism.

In view of the fact that terrorist attacks continue to inflict death and injury on innocent people around the world, this open debate provides another chance for the Member States of the United Nations to manifest their determination and solidarity in the fight against international terrorism and, more importantly, to contribute their views on what could be improved in terms of concrete actions.

International terrorism continues to be one of the serious threats to international peace and security. It constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, endangers the territorial integrity and stability of States, has adverse consequences for economic and social development and destroys the infrastructure of States. Viet Nam joins the international community in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the most recent of which were the tragic attacks in Mumbai, India, just a week ago. We wish to express once again our most profound condolences and sympathy to the Indian people and Government and the families of the victims of those heinous crimes.

It goes without saying that the primary responsibility falls on every State to formulate and to implement appropriate policies and measures to protect its people from the terrorist scourge. Counter-terrorism efforts, however, can not be successful unless States cooperate and coordinate with each other, for terrorism is a global phenomenon and no country can feel immune from it. Viet Nam supports the United Nations playing a leading role in the international fight against terrorism, in which all measures taken must be in compliance with international law, particularly the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. We once again reaffirm our support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and call for its full implementation.

The Security Council, undertaking its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, has adopted a number of resolutions and established several subsidiary mechanisms aimed at strengthening the international fight against terrorism. My delegation recognizes the significance of the Council's counter-terrorism resolutions and the importance of the work being carried out by the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004). Viet Nam attaches great importance to the implementation of those resolutions and the improvement of the three Committees' working methods and procedures.

Much attention and many efforts and resources have been dedicated to the fight against terrorism, and yet terrorism persists and manifests itself in worrying developments. The Security Council has consistently condemned terrorist acts and called for international cooperation in fighting terrorism, including through bringing perpetrators of terrorist acts to justice and providing technical assistance to States that request it.

While recognizing the importance of those measures, my country is fully convinced that it is equally important for each State and the international community as a whole to address the root causes of international terrorism. Political, economic and social inequalities, double standards, selectivity and the use of force in international affairs all create conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In this context, my delegation deems it very pertinent to recall the agreement reached by Member States in General Assembly resolution 60/288, in launching the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:

> "to do all they can to resolve conflict, end foreign occupation, confront oppression, eradicate poverty, promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights for all and rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures". (*General Assembly resolution 60/288, last preambular paragraph*)

In Viet Nam, terrorism is a crime punishable under the criminal code. Combating criminal offences, including terrorism and related crimes, is among the priorities of the Government of Viet Nam. Efforts have been made to strengthen our counter-terrorism legal framework and enforcement capacities, raise the awareness of the people and coordinate policies and activities with countries in the region, in particular in the framework of the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and within ASEAN cooperative programmes.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to take this opportunity to renew our commitment to the common cause against international terrorism and expresses our full support for the statement that the President of the Council will pronounce on behalf of the Council later today.

Mr. Weisleder (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the presidency of the Security Council and the Croatian delegation for organizing this open debate. The presence of President Stjepan Mesić offers a timely opportunity to consider our role in the fight against terrorism. It is an honour to have you presiding over this session, Sir. We also wish to welcome the significant presence of the Secretary-General and of the Deputy Secretary-General at this meeting.

Costa Rica must begin by unequivocally and firmly condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of where, why or by whom it is committed. There is no possible justification for the commission of terrorist acts.

We are living in times marked by constant savage and underhanded acts of aggression against innocent persons, who are by far the most common victims of fanaticism simply because they happen to be waiting for a bus or having a coffee or an ice cream with friends, or are just going about their daily work, as we witnessed a few days ago in India. We condemn that act, as well as all previous acts such as those perpetrated in Buenos Aires, Beirut, Caracas, Bali or Tel Aviv. Therefore, this is a timely opportunity to exchange ideas on the contribution of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism, in particular within the Council, which is mandated to maintain peace and security on the planet, and above all seven years after the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001).

Less than a decade ago, there was no apparent relationship between measures to address breaches of peace and security caused by terrorist acts and human rights. Even today, there are those who are not sufficiently concerned with that relationship, which must form part of the fight against terrorism, or with the need to raise such issues frequently.

The act of recalling that all counter-terrorist measures must strictly comply with international law must not be considered to weaken that struggle. On the contrary, our country is of the view that it makes the fight more effective in the medium and long terms. That perspective is appropriately reflected in the resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which clearly indicates that those two objectives are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Indeed, that issue is one of the great challenges faced by the Security Council on that subject. We must ensure that repressive measures that are adopted to neutralize the terrorist threat and terrorist actions are matched by an analysis of the socio-political roots that fuel the scourge. My delegation is not of the view that it is only the lack of socio-economic opportunity or the feeling of political marginalization that explain terrorism. We are convinced, however, by the abundant existing evidence that the fight against terrorism must be comprehensive and cannot be restricted to military options.

In the latter approach, the promotion of education is fundamental. However, Council members know full well that education is not a panacea either, and that in a number of cases it has instead become a weapon to promote fanaticism, intolerance and hatred. Therefore, what should be a path towards peace, reconciliation and the creation of opportunities for younger generations often becomes instead a trigger that sends many young people to their deaths and results in the deaths of thousands of innocent victims.

As part of its overarching efforts to address terrorism and to preserve human rights and freedoms, the Organization must work deliberately and ceaselessly to incorporate its principles, pillars and values into educational programmes and curricula, in particular in those societies where it has been ascertained, deplorably, that many centres of education have served to train future human bombs. Those efforts must be made in cooperation with the authorities and Governments and must never go against their will or resolve. In that manner, we will not only preserve the sovereignty of States — which is a sine qua non condition for any multilateral efforts — but we will also obtain better results, as there is no legitimate Government of any United Nations Member State that would not be ready to cultivate peace or understanding as the road towards the resolution of conflicts and disputes.

The challenge facing the Council also lies in improving its internal procedures to make them fairer and clearer, thus guaranteeing their efficiency and

transparency. But how can that effectiveness be guaranteed in view of the numerous widely divergent mandates related to the counter-terrorism struggle. For a number of years now, Costa Rica has submitted for the consideration of Member States a proposal for the establishment of an integrated counter-terrorism office. We are convinced that the United Nations must play leadership role in the fight against that terrible phenomenon, and we are of the view that such leadership could be facilitated by consolidating the numerous mandates that exist on that subject.

In the absence of such an integrated office, we will limit ourselves to reiterating our call for the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council in the field of counter-terrorism to continue to pursue better coordination among themselves, their groups of experts and other international and regional organizations.

It is certainly our duty within the Council to continue to provide those entities with the necessary guidance for the implementation of better protocols that will facilitate joint visits, which have already begun, as well as a better exchange of information and coordinated participation in regional activities, whenever possible.

Costa Rica has closely followed the questioning of the measures adopted by States to implement the Security Council sanctions regime. It is worrying that those measures are still being called into question by national and regional jurisdictional entities for their alleged lack of compliance with the law and with due process. As an elected member of this Council, Costa Rica will continue to cooperate to ensure fairer and clearer procedures for the listing and de-listing of individuals and entities on the sanctions list, as well as for the granting of exemptions on humanitarian grounds, in accordance with the constant requests of the General Assembly in that regard.

This Council has launched significant initiatives in that regard, and we hope that negotiations will soon begin with a view to establishing mechanisms to ensure that the individuals on the consolidated list of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) can exercise their right to be heard and to submit their defence through an independent sanctions review mechanism. However, we reiterate that that is not a step towards weakening the fight against terrorism; to the contrary, it is a step towards strengthening it. Our delegation is ready to support the statement that will be drafted in consultations as the outcome of this debate.

Lastly, as a country without an army, Costa Rica has decided to use international law as its only instrument of defence. For that reason, we eagerly await the international community's efforts to establish as soon as possible, after more than eight years of discussion, a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as President of Croatia.

(*Spoke in Croatian; English text provided by the delegation*)

Let me repeat two points that I made in the introduction to this debate. First, the events in Mumbai 12 days ago have confirmed in an extremely tragic way that terrorism is a global threat. Thus, it is not a threat affecting any particular country, but all of us. It is a threat to international peace and security. Needless to say, we can only counter such a threat globally.

Secondly, such a global response can achieve success only if it is based on the broadest possible international cooperation, and we believe that such solidarity is not currently at the requisite and desirable level.

The first point only makes the debate that we initiated long before the Mumbai events more topical, and the second explains why we wanted to open such a debate in this very forum, in the United Nations.

In the wake of 11 September 2001, the Republic of Croatia immediately advocated that an effective global coalition be formed to fight international terrorism. At the time we called it an alliance. We proceeded from the assessment, which has not changed to date, that such a coalition can function only on the basis not only of equal relations, but also of mutual trust among its members. We believe that mutual trust is extremely important, even in a broader context.

The global solidarity that initially was sincere faded, not to say disappeared, owing to the lack of such trust. It waned because it appeared that, from the beginning, the war on terrorism as an unquestionable threat to international peace and security had actually turned into a kind of exclusive competence of one country or of a group of countries that it led. Moreover,

the fight against terrorism as a global project was also compromised by the way in which it was waged. That has led to the disappearance of the basic preconditions for its success.

However, at the same time, terrorism neither disappeared nor weakened. Arguments could even be found for the claim that it grew even stronger. At any rate, it has become our companion and a part of our everyday life, and that is the situation which we currently face. Its basic elements include a significant decline in global solidarity, a one-sided approach to the fight against terrorism and its focus, which at times leaves something to be desired, and, finally, a climate of insufficient trust in relations among the key elements on the global scene.

When we considered how to present the view of the Republic of Croatia regarding that complex issue in this very forum, we were aware of the options. Either we could resort to the standard vocabulary of international forums or, most unusually, we could state candidly how the Republic of Croatia views terrorism and its threat to global peace and security. We chose the latter because we deeply and sincerely believe that we would all achieve better results if we paid more attention to considering the essence of the problem — any problem — rather than focusing on the choice of words.

Since 2001, we have persistently claimed that the war on terrorism can be waged and ultimately won only if we proceed on two tracks. The first refers to actions of the security apparatus — to the use of force against the direct perpetrators and their masterminds and against the terrorist network. Such actions are inevitable and remove the immediate danger, but will be of little use if, at the same time, we do not focus on the deeper causes of terrorism — on the sources of this disease — rather than on attacking its symptoms. That is our second track.

Today, on this very spot, we are asking questions, not expecting to receive or to formulate definite answers to them. Yet we believe that even by asking questions, we can draw attention to certain factors that appear to be unavoidable in the consideration of the topic on our agenda today.

The first question is: As long as there are people deprived of all rights, poor through no fault of their own, doomed to disease, hunger and death, deprived of opportunities for education and victims of unfair relations between States, local wars or unresolved local crises — in a nutshell, as long as there are people who have lost everything; who know that they will never get anything, and have only one thing left, namely, their life — will it be difficult to exploit that unfortunately inexhaustible pool and recruit potential terrorists from it?

The second and last question is: Will it be difficult to turn individuals or groups in that pool of poverty and hopelessness against those who are described to them as the causes underlying their condition, especially when that struggle is presented in terms of loyalty to faith and high ideals and, ultimately, of martyrdom?

Those are the questions. We are expected to find the answers and act accordingly.

The Republic of Croatia once again stresses its firm conviction that the use of force, however indispensable and unavoidable, will resolve nothing in the long run. A one-sided approach to the fight against terrorism will not achieve anything either, nor will pre-emptive action outside the United Nations. We are firmly committed to the achievement of consensus on the issue that we are discussing. We do not wish to open new controversies with these views, but we find it necessary to present them because that is how we think and how we see things.

We also deem it necessary and, even more, imperative to present our view that the only true answer to the question of how to remove the danger posed by terrorism to international security lies in turning to its deeper underlying causes, in emphasizing development policies, in undertaking enhanced efforts focused on the establishment of equitable international relations, in working towards the de-monopolization of the war on terrorism and its universal implementation based on re-established international solidarity and trust — and that is where we believe the United Nations plays a key role.

But let us avoid any confusion: in focusing on the environment that breeds terrorism, we are not trying to justify anyone. Nor have we forgotten that some attempt to use terrorism in order to achieve specific goals that, as a rule, have nothing in common with what drives fanaticized or indoctrinated terrorists. However, we do claim that, if the pool of potential terrorists were to dry up, those who exploit them would lose the weapon for attaining their goals.

All indicators show that we are on the threshold of creating new relationships within the international community — not only in the area of economic relations but also in political relations. The structure created at the end of the Second World War is worn out. It must be strengthened and expanded. In a nutshell, it must be modernized and adjusted to our time. Such a conclusion is pressingly warranted by the crises that we are facing — namely, the financial, economic, food and energy crises — and by global terrorism as well.

If we do not want the situation to deteriorate into pure anarchy and chaos, let us take matters into our own hands — let us control them. But let us do it by facing reality rather than by closing our eyes to reality.

The United Nations is the place for debating all these issues. The United Nations is the decision-making forum -the very same United Nations that, 60 years ago, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of the fundamental documents intended to regulate the conduct of States and of all subjects in international relations.

As for its own contribution to the debate on the dangers posed by terrorism to international peace and security, the Republic of Croatia would like to highlight in particular how extremely important it is to respect human rights and how absolutely unacceptable it is to jeopardize or limit such rights under the guise of the fight against terrorism. It is equally unacceptable to justify terrorism by invoking any religion or identifying it with any faith or nation.

Therefore, we need a new international solidarity in the fight against this evil that currently or potentially threatens us all. All of us must wage this war, united in a global coalition based on equality and mutual trust. This solidarity is in fact one of the aspects of the new multilateralism that is being mentioned ever more frequently.

The United Nations must be the place that will, at least politically, coordinate all efforts to check and eradicate terrorism in the world and reduce it to the level of incidents. Our fate is not and cannot be to reconcile ourselves with terrorism or to accept terrorism as an inevitable evil of the present-day world. The future of the world is in our own hands.

The founders of the United Nations mentioned succeeding generations in the Charter of the Organization. But they were not the only people responsible for these succeeding generations. We share the same responsibility. All of us, all the members of the international community, share the responsibility for those who have yet to come. And that is something that we must never forget.

(*spoke in French*)

I now resume my functions as the President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Alkalaj (Bosnia and Herzegovina): It is my special privilege and pleasure to have the opportunity to address the Security Council today and to share some views on the increasingly important topic of the relationship between global security and international terrorism. On behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would like to express our best wishes to the Government of Croatia for its presidency of the Security Council this month. Today's agenda and the presence of the President of Croatia, Mr. Stjepan Mesić, should once again show the importance that Croatia and countries in the region accord to the issue of terrorism, which has taken the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians.

Indeed, the challenges posed to the modern world and our societies by the various forms, methods and manifestations of international terrorism make the rethinking of current approaches to preventing and combating this phenomenon inevitable, thereby reaffirming the necessity of strengthening international cooperation in this very respect. I remain confident that such a cooperative approach will prevail and will bring results, providing at the same time for a significant contribution to the strengthening of global security.

At the very outset, I would like to stress that Bosnia and Herzegovina remains fully committed to the fight against this scourge and will continue to make an active contribution in this respect. Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to invest significant efforts in the prevention and fight against terrorism, and it has been confirmed as an active member of the counter-terrorism coalition committed to fighting all types of terrorist activity, especially through institutional capacity-building and the harmonization of its legislation with the relevant United Nations and European conventions and protocols.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also concluded a series of bilateral treaties and agreements on police cooperation with other countries in our region and beyond, as part of its fight against terrorism. Most of the measures set forth in our strategy for combating terrorism adopted in July 2006 have been successfully implemented. In an ongoing manner, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina closely monitors the situation in the world in this regard and is currently involved in drafting a new national document on fighting terrorism and strengthening the counter-terrorism capacities of our country.

At the international level, our country is actively cooperating with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, in particular with regard to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and the implementation of the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions. The Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities conducted a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 2006 and officially acknowledged our State authorities' efforts to implement sanctions and to undertake effective measures to counter the threat of terrorism. The same Committee also recognized the need for further technical assistance, in particular in strengthening and modernizing our capacities with respect to immigration and border control.

That Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee made a field visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2007, and we hope that their forthcoming findings will help us to fulfil our international obligations and further promote our legitimate fight against terrorism. Designed to improve cooperation and interaction among the Member States, the new methods of work of the counter-terrorism committees and bodies will no doubt help us to achieve our common goal — countering and preventing terrorist attacks.

Combating terrorism and addressing its root causes in order to prevent insurgency and the spread of terrorist acts are today among the most challenging issues on the United Nations agenda. Convening this meeting on such an important global topic is indeed timely and imperative, especially in the light of the recent tragic events that took place Mumbai, India. Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly condemns those horrible terror attacks, and I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate the deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims and to the friendly people of India.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is an effective way to provide a coordinated, multilateral response to terrorism and to understand the particular conditions of each region and country. We truly believe that regional organizations' understanding of the situation in their neighbourhood could be helpful in providing rapid and appropriate answers to threats endangering international peace and security.

The counter-terrorism-related technical assistance of the European Union, the Council of Europe, NATO and other regional organizations have helped Bosnia and Herzegovina to carry out necessary reforms undertaken with the aim of achieving the country's full integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures.

This highly valuable assistance has improved the functioning of the relevant State structures — ministries, agencies and other State bodies — and strengthened Bosnia and Herzegovina's contribution to the shared approach of international efforts aimed at increasing security at the national, regional and international levels.

Tomorrow we will be celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Fighting the scourge of terrorism should not hinder the obligations of States under international human rights instruments, refugee and humanitarian law. It is our responsibility to find a just balance between legitimate national security concerns and the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of our citizens.

I wish to reiterate that Bosnia and Herzegovina remains fully committed to effectively preventing and fighting this global threat and stands ready to provide any assistance and support to the international efforts in the same respect.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Minister of State for External Affairs of India.

Mr. Ahamed (India): At the outset, let me express my deep gratitude for the strong condemnation of and condolences for the recent heinous attacks in Mumbai expressed by the members of this body.

The terrorist attack from 26 to 29 November in Mumbai marked a qualitatively new and dangerous escalation of the terrorism that India has faced for over two decades. Throughout this period, as in the Mumbai attack, major terrorist acts in India have been sponsored and organized by groups and forces from across our borders. The Mumbai attack also made it clear that terrorism is a direct threat to international peace and security.

Let me briefly recall what our investigations have revealed so far about the attack.

A group of 10 terrorists from the global terrorist organization Lashkar-a-Tayyiba reached Mumbai in the evening of 26 November 2008. The group divided itself into four smaller groups and proceeded to pre-selected targets, which included a café popular with Indian and foreign tourists and two major hotels. Each terrorist was armed and equipped with AK-47 rifles, pistols, grenades, explosives and communications.

The terrorist attack was conducted like a commando operation, indicating that the perpetrators had received professional training both generally and specifically for this attack itself. They were indoctrinated with ruthlessness and barbarity. Innocent passengers, including women and children, were indiscriminately sprayed with bullets at the railway station and other public places, and hostages were taken in the hotels to be subsequently massacred. It is significant that this was the first terrorist attack in India in which foreigners were specifically segregated and targeted.

Nine terrorists were killed in the action taken by our security forces, while one of them was apprehended. His interrogation has revealed that the attackers were trained in Pakistan and sent in a ship from Karachi. They travelled into Indian waters, took control of an Indian boat and killed the crew. Thereafter, they came to Mumbai to cause mayhem and murder. One hundred and seventy-nine persons, including 26 foreigners, lost their lives, while 296 persons, including 22 foreigners, suffered injuries in the attack, which was designed to kill and maim as many people as possible.

Other Indian cities, including Jaipur, Delhi and Ahmedabad, have also been the victims of terrorist attacks. We have requested the Security Council to proscribe the Pakistani group Jamaat-ud-Dawa, since it is a terrorist outfit and should be proscribed under Security Council resolution 1267 (1999). All those who were in any way responsible for the Mumbai terrorist attacks, wherever they may be, should be brought to justice.

The fight against terrorism demands effective international cooperation so that those who are responsible, wherever they may be, are brought to book. The organizers, financers and logistics providers of these terrorist attacks have to be punished. Those who give ideological and moral support to this evil phenomenon must also be brought to justice.

Terrorism does not happen by chance or at random. Terrorism is planned and financed. It requires meticulous organization, arms and safe havens. When it occurs, the world is shocked. What is not easily visible is the backstream of terrorist acts. Mumbai's case is clear. The trail leading to the attack is marked and definite, but in cases where terrorists' acts are aided and abetted to cover their tracks, all of us separately and together must ensure that they are exposed and the terrorists brought to justice.

Nothing — no religious grievance, dispute or ideology — can be used as a raison d'être by anyone to justify terrorism. This is totally unacceptable. Raising dust to obscure the trail so that the merchants of terror can hide is unacceptable to us and to any civilized society.

Terrorists are the enemy of the people. When the actions of terrorist groups are used to serve the political interests of States, a deadly combination emerges. A terror machine is created. India has had experience of such machines, which need to be eliminated. The nexus between State or elements within the State and terror outfits must be broken, and groups or individuals that indoctrinate, organize, plan and finance terror have to be uprooted, along with other measures.

Therefore, in the context of this discussion, we call for the following actions by the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the international community.

First, Jamaat-ud-Dawa and other such organizations must be proscribed internationally and effective sanctions imposed against them. Their country of origin needs to take urgent steps to stop their functioning. A message must also go out that perpetrators of terrorist acts must be brought to book

and not given sanctuary in some States. Practical measures need to be immediately put in place at the global and national levels to see to it that the menace of terror is uprooted. The comprehensive convention on international terrorism that India proposed in 1996 needs to be adopted immediately to provide a framework of international law against terrorism. It cannot be held hostage to definitions while terrorists continue to take innocent lives.

Our people ask the international community to determinedly pursue and eliminate terrorist organizations. The world needs to act decisively and in a coordinated manner to prevent further attacks. India will act to safeguard and protect its people from such heinous attacks, however long and difficult that task may be. We have acted with restraint in the face of terrorist attacks. We must do our duty by our people and take all actions as we deem fit to defend and protect them. The Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, including the right of self-defence, give us the framework for fulfilling those responsibilities.

That is the message to the Security Council that I bring from my Government and my people.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now call on the representative of Australia.

Mr. Goledzinowski (Australia): Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to speak today on Australia's assessment of the current threats to international security from terrorism.

First, I would like to join others in expressing our condemnation and disgust at the recent attacks in Mumbai. Australia reiterates its sympathy and solidarity with the Government and the people of India. Australians, I know, were deeply shocked by those attacks, not just because we lost two of our own, but also because of the randomness and cruelty with which they were carried out. These were well-organized and deliberate attacks that would have required careful preparation, planning, facilitation and training. Every effort must be made to bring the perpetrators to justice and to ensure that no such attack can ever happen again.

In Australia's assessment, while headway is being made to counter Al-Qaida-inspired violent extremism, it is likely to remain a challenge to the global security environment for the foreseeable future. Indeed, whenever we are tempted to think that this problem is behind us, we are reminded in a cruel fashion of how much further we need to go.

The ideology of such extremism appeals across generations and continues to attract new adherents despite its appalling record of violence. Al-Qaida continues to be the vanguard of the movement. It has itself planned and undertaken attacks and funded and facilitated attacks by others. It has also created a sophisticated global propaganda machine, which in turn has inspired others.

At the same time, we also recognize that Al-Qaida-inspired extremism has never depended on a single overarching group or organization. Its fluid and decentralized nature is exemplified in the phenomenon of so-called home-grown terrorism, which is carried out largely in developed countries by those who have been radicalized and organized independently.

The evolving and persistent nature of the terrorist threat calls for a long-term international strategy. No country can combat terrorism effectively on its own. The Australian Government recognizes that, in order to protect Australia and Australians from the threat of terrorism, international cooperation is essential. Our international counter-terrorism engagement is based on three pillars: policy dialogue, including this debate; operational collaboration; and counter-terrorism capacity-building with international partners. Australia also supports the vital work of the United Nations in developing a comprehensive legal framework in the field of counter-terrorism and in promoting cooperation among Member States in combating terrorism.

As the representative of Costa Rica emphasized, effective counter-terrorism efforts are not susceptible to purely military solutions; they require police, intelligence, political and broader developmental activities, as has been emphasized by a number of speakers today. Effective mitigation of terrorist attacks involves the combination of an appropriate security response with broader strategies to enhance social cohesion and community resilience and to lessen the appeal of radical ideology leading to violent extremism. In addition, we recognize that the flexible and networked organizational structures of terrorist groups enable them to take rapid advantage of new technologies. In seeking to counter the influence of extremist propaganda on the Internet and elsewhere and the challenges of cyber-terrorism, Governments need to become more flexible, adaptive and collaborative.

A key concern for the international community in examining the connections between terrorism and other threats to global security is the threat of terrorists' acquiring and using chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials. Australia strongly supports efforts to prevent this within the framework of measures such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

Australia's whole-of-Government counter-terrorism capacity-building and operational collaboration efforts will continue, particularly in South-East Asia. The region's foremost terrorist organizations have been significantly disrupted through successful counter-terrorism actions carried out by Indonesia and other regional Governments, but the terrorist groups are resilient and have not abandoned their violent goals. Splinter groups and independent cells continue to pose a threat. We will continue to work with Governments in our region to ensure that counter-terrorism successes are consolidated.

Australia is also deeply committed to expanding its cooperation with the countries in South Asia. The Pakistan-Afghanistan border region remains in the forefront of the fight against terrorism. All nations have a direct interest in ensuring that Afghanistan never again becomes a base for the export of terrorist activity and a focus for terrorism in South Asia and more widely.

Finally, in the spirit of the Secretary-General's Alliance of Civilizations initiative and other interfaith dialogue activities, Australia is working with regional Governments to underline our shared values based on tolerance, non-violence, respect for human dignity, diversity and pluralism, as well as our consistent, unequivocal and strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I should like to thank the President for convening this debate and also for his uncompromising national statement and for undertaking to prepare a presidential statement for adoption at the conclusion of this debate.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now call on the representative of Algeria.

Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I should like at the outset to welcome Your Excellency Mr. Stjepan Mesić, President of the Republic of Croatia, and to thank you for presiding over this debate. I should also like to congratulate your country, Croatia, on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December and to thank your delegation for organizing this important debate.

The resurgence of terrorist attacks throughout the world — the most recent of which struck the city of Mumbai, India — remind us that vigilance and international cooperation are always appropriate in the face of this threat to international peace and security. Algeria strongly condemns acts of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, regardless of the place or context in which they are committed.

The United Nations has a leading role to play in the fight against terrorism. Its actions must have concrete objectives. In that connection, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy must be translated into a firm commitment on the part of all Member States, which is the only way that we can achieve the desired results.

Reacting to the consequences of terrorist acts is not enough; a preventive approach is essential, since the terrorist threat is ever-changing and terrorists are increasingly using sophisticated means and complex tactics to avoid detection by States.

We have to focus, first of all, on combating the financing of terrorism. Networks that finance terrorism must be shut down. Those networks evolve through various kinds of organized crime such as smuggling, drug trafficking, weapons trafficking and, recently, piracy and hostage taking.

Financing terrorist groups through taking hostages and securing ransoms seems to be one of the more lucrative methods used by terrorists. Algeria would warn against a short-term approach that involves complying with terrorist demands without considering the consequences of giving into them.

We have to continue analyzing and addressing the factors that fuel terrorism and promote its spread. The purpose is not to excuse terrorism but to understand it in order better to fight against it. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy recognized this point by making understanding terrorism one of its pillars.

Young recruits of criminal groups are not terrorists because of some ancestral or religious connection; they are victims of a combination of several factors, including a lack of future prospects and the harmful consequences of the propaganda of those who promote extremist, fanatic and fatalistic

ideologies. This particularly vulnerable group is often left with little hope for a better future.

Moreover, studies carried out by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force with some Member States, including Algeria, on the rehabilitation of terrorists who have repented for their crimes have been very useful. Learning from these most unfortunate experiences is one way of helping us to teach those who might otherwise be seduced by terrorist propaganda.

We must stress that the Internet is still the weak link in counter-terrorist action by the international community. Despite several General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, such as Council resolution 1624 (2005), no real progress has been made in blocking the dissemination of messages that justify terrorism on the web. Experience has shown that terrorists are experts in computer technology and use it to recruit and train members and to finance their work. Reluctance has to be overcome, so that the international community can take concrete action together on this matter.

Algeria welcomes the ongoing commitment by the Security Council to combat terrorism. Its subsidiary bodies, Counter-Terrorism Committees and the 1267 and 1540 Committees play a decisive role in mobilizing efforts and coordinating the activities of the international community. The international community must focus on assistance to developing States that do not have the necessary human and material resources to become more involved in the implementation of the relevant international instruments. Assistance from developed countries in the form of technical assistance must be commensurate with the work to be done. Border control, developing better financial systems and controlling weapons trafficking are some of the major issues to be tackled.

Here we would stress the importance of strengthening cooperation with specialized regional bodies through, inter alia, technical assistance programmes. Regional and subregional organizations know what the situation is on the ground, and they know the specific constraints in each particular area. They have a crucial contribution to make.

In Africa, the Algiers Research Centre on Terrorism, despite its limited resources, is becoming increasingly active in mobilizing, supervising and training African personnel to take on the fight against terrorism. Accordingly, it is a resource that should be encouraged and we must involve it in various kinds of training, technical assistance and consultations.

Finally, in the face of the scourge of terrorism, Algeria wishes to reiterate its call to the international community to rise above regional, ideological and political divides so that we can tackle this scourge and its underlying causes together.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity afforded to my delegation to participate in this session of the Security Council and to commend Croatia and the President of the Croatian Republic for organizing this open debate on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. In this regard I would like to fully align myself with the declaration of the representative of France speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The world continues to be shocked by the terrible events that took place recently in Mumbai — indiscriminate terrorist acts against the civil population, which have led to universal condemnation. Likewise, a few days ago, Spain once again became a victim of the scourge of terrorism, as have so many countries in the more or less recent past. The international community cannot remain impassive in the face of this terrorist violence that affects us all, kills innocent people, attempts to undermine the enjoyment of human rights and liberties and has destabilizing effects that threaten peaceful coexistence of nations.

It is therefore necessary to bring about firm and sustained multilateral action, in which the United Nations would play a central role as a guarantor of international law and would coordinate the actions of States and regional and universal organizations in their fight against terrorism.

The United Nations system has played an important role in the fight against terrorism. That is why it has important legal instruments, such as the 16 international conventions and protocols that exist on this issue, in addition to the numerous resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council and other measures adopted by specialized organs and committees, including

subsidiary bodies to this Council. The international community took an important step forward in September 2006, when the General Assembly adopted by consensus, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Plan of Action, which sought to draw on a package of legal and political instruments to develop a collective and exhaustive plan to counter terrorism. The effective implementation of the Strategy must be a priority for all and the final success will depend, essentially, on the political resolve of the Member States and on the coordination efforts deployed by this Organization.

I would like to reiterate the firm commitment of Spain in the fight against all forms of terrorism, regardless of its motivation or manifestation, and it is the wish of my Government that this work be a permanent priority in the United Nations agenda, since effective multilateral action is essential in view of the nature of the threat.

Spain has suffered greatly at the hand of terrorist violence and is therefore working domestically and internationally to prevent and combat it. Given our cumulative lengthy experience in this area, we are convinced that this difficult task can only be successful, if the fight against terrorism is waged in strict compliance with international law, with the highest priority given to law and human rights and with resolute international cooperation. Spain played an important role in the drafting and adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and it is one of the major contributors to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force of the Secretary-General in the fight against terrorism, which is working for the coordinated implementation of the four key components of the Strategy throughout the United Nations system.

Spain has therefore participated in a number of initiatives to address the conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism in areas such as the peaceful settlement of conflicts, peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations, development assistance and providing relief for the victims of terrorism.

Moreover, Spain has actively promoted the Alliance of Civilizations, an initiative launched by the Secretary-General that seeks to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between States and peoples of all cultures and religions on the basis of the principles and values enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in order to address every form of extremism and fanaticism that could contribute to violence.

Spain is also justifiably proud to have been the first State to have ratified the 16 international instruments developed within the United Nations system with regard to the fight against terrorism. We have also financed technical assistance initiatives for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as activities launched by other specialized entities within the United Nations system.

Terrorism poses a serious threat to international peace and security. Its effects on innocent people in every region of the world are devastating, and it seeks to undermine the supreme values enshrined within the United Nations Charter. The time has come for all Member States, under the leadership of this Organization, to show firm political resolve to address this barbarism and to use all measures available to the United Nations under the Charter.

We must take steps forward and seek to align our positions in order to be able to adopt a comprehensive convention on international terrorism in the near future. That convention is currently at an advanced stage of negotiation in the General Assembly. We all stand to benefit from it, as we are all victims of this scourge and have all paid a high price for it. We will be able to develop an effective response only if we act collectively. The decision lies in our hands.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Afghanistan.

Mr. Tanin (Afghanistan): Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your commitment to this important debate and for chairing this meeting here today. We congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December and for the concept paper that was circulated. We also note with great appreciation the presence of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and of the Deputy Secretary-General at today's debate.

We are gathered here today to address a great common threat to international peace and security: terrorism. First and foremost, I stand with my Government and people in firmly condemning the atrocities that occurred in Mumbai almost two weeks ago. Afghanistan extends its greatest sympathies to and

expresses its solidarity with our brothers and sisters in India, because we feel and understand their suffering. A few hours after the first attack in Mumbai, there was a terrorist attack in Kabul, killing and injuring tens of civilians. It is even more sobering to understand that Mumbai is only one example. For terrorists, the theatre of destruction is ever-widening: Mumbai, Kabul, Islamabad, New York, London and Madrid.

In Afghanistan, the scars and the burns of terrorism stare us in the face every day. In Afghanistan, spectacular terrorism has become everyday terrorism. Terrorism undermines daily efforts on the part of our Government to provide a sense of safety for families, to provide education for our children and to create conditions for free and fair elections for our citizens. Afghans at all levels bear the day-to-day burdens of terrorism. Because of our own experience, Afghanistan participates in this debate with a great sense of urgency.

Today Afghanistan would like to call the world's attention to the overarching ideals that terrorism is seeking to destroy: moderation, coexistence and peace. Terror has an end goal: by murdering humans, it hopes to murder moderation. It hopes to provoke the leaders of the world to be careless in their anger. It aspires to create rifts between countries and drive wedges between us. It plans to murder peace and incite us to war.

We cannot play out this script that the terrorists have written for us, for that is how they win. Today we can strike a great blow against terror by affirming our honest collaboration and cooperation. We can only fight terror by standing together, shoulder to shoulder. Cooperation is our key. Cooperation is how we win.

We should commend the recent steps forward we have taken together. The Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan are embarking on the first real steps towards cooperation against the common threat. We hope this new atmosphere will lead to the end of sanctuaries for Al-Qaida, the Taliban and other terrorist groups and to more mutually beneficial relations between our two countries.

In addition, the recent joint strategy that Afghanistan and Pakistan forged in Turkey is a critical step forward. We should also commend and fully support the cooperative work between India and Pakistan to investigate the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks. The United Nations and all of its Member States must recognize the necessity of international support for regional cooperation in the pursuit of peace and security and the fight against terrorism.

When we speak of effective cooperation, we must be aware that a cooperative strategy will be strongest if it is consistent and comprehensive. First, our inconsistent approach towards terrorism in the past has already strengthened terrorist groups around the world. We have to understand that these groups did not drop from the sky; the funding of terrorist groups served short-term, short-sighted policies to promote certain political agendas. However, we have seen these terrorist groups hit back, wreaking more destruction than any benefit we could have gained.

We must learn from the consequences of our past and be aware of our current actions. We must uniformly and consistently work towards the eradication of terrorist groups. There should be zero tolerance for terrorism and zero support for terrorism. In Afghanistan, our recent initiative to pursue peace talks will also abide by this principle of consistency.

Secondly, a successful cooperation strategy should address terrorism comprehensively, from its root causes upward. Terrorism gains its converts from those who suffer from socio-economic imbalances, social handicaps and wrenching poverty, and it hides behind popular political discontent. Terrorism tries to indoctrinate the young and innocent. We need to engage in preventive measures and policies that address the social and economic inequity upon which terrorist elements prey. Our cooperative strategy against terrorism should not only be about decapitating individual terrorist groups; our strategy must also be about bringing about security, development and good governance.

In Afghanistan, we are fighting against terrorism on a daily basis by building schools for our children, by putting an end to the narcotics industry that feeds terrorism, by locating rural enterprises for our people in order to improve their livelihoods and by providing water and sanitation to our people. We are fighting corruption by renewing the leadership of our ministries and local administrations. We are training our security forces so that our people can live without fear. This constant and comprehensive approach will improve our cooperation and fight terrorism effectively.

We cannot wait for the next terrorist attack to re-energize our efforts in favour of such a cooperative strategy. We cannot wait for another attack to join

together. We have to be as committed to cooperative measures following 100 days of peace as we are after an attack as bloody as the one in Mumbai. Organizations such as the Security Council should further contribute to cooperation by calling for new sanctions against terrorist groups and those elements and entities that seek to sponsor and support terrorism. Without that consistent and comprehensive commitment to cooperation, we will walk into the traps the terrorists have laid for us. Reckless anger, further fighting and war are how terrorism wins.

At a time when the world is celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is appropriate that we should reassert that all people — regardless of religion, ethnicity, nationality, class or gender — deserve a life free of fear, free of oppression and free of war. Cooperation and unity is how we forge a world that will be just, peaceful and strong against terror. Cooperation is how we win.

The President: I shall now suspend the meeting, to be reconvened at 3 o'clock.

The meeting was suspended at 1.15 p.m.

Security Council

Sixty-third year

Provisional

6034th meeting

Tuesday, 9 December 2008, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Jurica	(Croatia)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Payot
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Koudougou
	China	Mr. Li Kexin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Weisleder
	France	Mr. Deruffe
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Italy	Mr. Riccardo
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Gouider
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Rogachev
	South Africa	Mr. Malgas
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harvey
	United States of America	Ms. Willson
	Viet Nam	Mrs. Nguyen Thanh Ha

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Letter dated 26 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2008/738)

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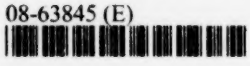
08-63845 (E)



The meeting resumed at 3.15 p.m.

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: I also wish to remind all speakers, as was indicated by my President at this morning's session, to limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the text in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Okuda (Japan): The recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai served as a poignant reminder for all of us of the serious threat that terrorism continues to pose seven years after the tragic events of September 2001. Following the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, Japanese Prime Minister Aso conveyed to Prime Minister Singh of India Japan's willingness to cooperate with India and to assist in the investigation. Having just witnessed that despicable crime, we consider it very timely to have an open debate in the Security Council on the topic of "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts". We would therefore like to express our sincere appreciation for the valuable initiative taken by President Mesić in convening this meeting.

Japan fully agrees with the idea emphasized in the concept paper prepared by Croatia that it would be meaningful for the international community to reaffirm its solidarity against terrorism at this juncture. We also endorse the paper's recommendation strongly advocating for a multidimensional and comprehensive approach to countering terrorism.

I hardly need to reiterate the importance of the role of the Council. In particular, three of the Council's subsidiary committees continue to play a crucial role. Member States have primary responsibility for the implementation of relevant resolutions. The Council and its subsidiary bodies must do their best to facilitate the efforts made by the Member States.

This year, as Chair of the Group of Eight (G-8), Japan has been striving to strengthen cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Action Group established by the G-8 and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate here at Headquarters. It is our hope that this cooperation will contribute to enhanced cooperation between the Council and Member States, especially in the area of counter-terrorism assistance.

Seven years after the 11 September attacks, Afghanistan and its surrounding areas remain the most critical region in our fight against terrorism. In this regard, in addition to various measures taken on the ground, we believe that full recognition should be given to the importance of the related maritime operations. Japan has been contributing to the counter-terrorism operations in the Indian Ocean since 2001 and we are determined to continue this effort.

Japan also believes that regional cooperation has a crucial role in our counter-terrorism efforts. To advance such cooperation, Japan has been participating actively in various regional initiatives and working closely with regional partners, particularly in South-east Asia. To cite one example, we have been cooperating with countries that are preparing for their accession to relevant international conventions. In 2003, we began to organize seminars, mainly for Asian experts, on the promotion of accession to international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols.

Counter-terrorism measures must not be confined to traditional measures related to law enforcement; non-traditional areas identified in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy must also be adequately addressed. In particular, efforts to reduce poverty and measures in the area of education must be further strengthened in order to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Japan continues to believe that the United Nations must play an integral role in the fight against terrorism. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides a valuable basis for our unified efforts in that context, and the unanimous adoption of General Assembly resolution 62/272, which reaffirmed the Strategy and called for its implementation, was very welcome. Through this open debate, the Council should renew its commitment to addressing the serious threat to international peace and security posed by terrorism. Japan takes this opportunity to reaffirm its willingness to contribute to the Council's efforts in that regard.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): On behalf of the Government and the people of Liechtenstein, I would like to express our solidarity with and sincere condolences to all those victimized by the recent terrorist attacks in India. We unequivocally condemn such heinous acts of terrorism — irrespective of their motivation and wherever and by whomever committed — and reiterate our full commitment to international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

We are grateful for the concept paper (S/2008/738) submitted by the President for today's debate, and our statement will be focused on a few specific points.

We strongly agree with the notion reflected in the paper that the use of armed force cannot be the only answer to the scourge of terrorism and that terms such as "war on terrorism" have brought about more problems than solutions, in particular with respect to the uniform application of international humanitarian law.

We believe that today's debate provides us with a good opportunity to promote international solidarity in countering terrorism on the basis of a comprehensive approach, as reflected in the United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy of September 2006. Merely reaffirming those commitments, however, will not by itself improve our response to terrorism. During the seven years following the attacks of 11 September 2001, the United Nations has massively scaled up its global counter-terrorism toolbox, and Member States as well as international and regional organizations have taken numerous steps to that effect; but still the threat of terrorism seems more pervasive than ever. That simple fact underlines the limitations of traditional counter-terrorism measures and the need to systematically address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorist activities.

This Council has a particular role to play in that regard with respect to the need to address a number of long-term conflict situations whose repercussions are being felt all over the world and that are directly related to violent extremism. Other parts of the United Nations system, including the General Assembly, are called upon to redouble their efforts, within their respective mandates, that contribute to the prevention of terrorism. In that regard, we recall that the General Assembly has a particular responsibility that it needs to address urgently: the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We hope that renewed vigour in global counter-terrorism cooperation will bring about a political climate in which the outstanding issues with respect to what has been termed the definition of terrorism can be solved.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy identifies the absence of the rule of law, human rights violations and a lack of good governance among the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. It is equally true that the fight against terrorism can have a negative impact on the rule of law, human rights and good governance, as States and international organizations take sometimes urgent and forceful counter-terrorism measures without allowing for appropriate checks and balances on executive action.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur to conduct a comprehensive study on terrorism and human rights has given numerous relevant examples of such measures where public and individual security interests are not always properly balanced against the human rights of affected individuals. Given the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, including with respect to the fight against international terrorism, we are convinced that the Council should lead by example when dealing with the difficult question of balancing security interests and human rights. We are therefore pleased that further improvements have been made to the Council's counter-terrorism sanctions regime, and we urge the Council to take further necessary steps in that regard.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan.

Mrs. Aitimova (Kazakhstan): Let me first of all express my appreciation to you, Sir, and to your country in its capacity as President of the Security Council during the month of December 2008, for organizing this open debate on one of the most critical issues of international peace and security. The continuing terrorist acts around the world are a constant and painful reminder that terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to all States and peoples. Terrorist acts cause the increasing mistrust of people in the capability of the international community to effectively respond to those inhumane acts of violence.

The terrible events that took place in Mumbai represent the most cruel and large-scale terrorist act since 11 September 2001. Together with the rest of the international community, Kazakhstan pays special tribute to the innocent victims of the barbaric act of the terrorists and expresses its solidarity with the Government of India.

In his telegram of condolences to Indian Prime Minister Singh, President Nursultan Nazarbayev pointed out that, in this time of tragedy, it is necessary to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Kazakhstan is confident that only in that manner will it be possible to confront any act of terrorism.

Today we are facing unprecedented global threats: inter-ethnic and inter-confessional conflicts; international terrorism and organized crime; natural, anthropogenic and humanitarian disasters; diseases and epidemics; and energy and environmental problems. The continued surge of terrorist acts throughout the world has laid bare the transnational nature of terrorism. One must recognize that terrorism is well organized, financially self-sufficient and bolstered by powerful ideological dictums that poison the consciousness of an ever-greater number of people. Against that background, the strengthening of the international legal framework of counter-terrorist cooperation is especially relevant. Kazakhstan supports the adoption without further delay of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism.

The United Nations, with its authority, universal character and unique experience, continues to play an indispensable leading and coordinating role in all global affairs. Its effectiveness, however, depends on our will; and we should, through joint efforts, reform the Organization with a view to strengthening the role of the Security Council in reacting expeditiously to the main challenges to international peace and security.

We are sure that constructive and successful cooperation among United Nations Member States on the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will strengthen regional and international security and eliminate the issue of international terrorism in the future.

Regional and subregional arrangements play a critical role in the efforts to enhance the effectiveness of global actions against terrorism. In particular, a significant contribution to counter-terrorism efforts in the Eurasian region could be made by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia is another such structure.

In conclusion, we would like to express once again our deepest sorrow over the loss of innocent lives in all acts of terrorism and convey our sympathies and condolences to the families of the victims. We believe that the international community should join in the efforts to ensure broad and effective cooperation in the struggle to eliminate the threat of terrorism forever.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mrs. Núñez Mordoche (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Cuba firmly condemns and rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism. We consider that all terrorist acts, methods and practices wherever, by whomever and against whomever they are committed to be totally unjustifiable, whatever the motive invoked to justify them. The recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai are new and clear proof of the danger that terrorism represents for us all. Cuba expresses its sincere condolences to the people and the Government of India with regard to the victims of those criminal acts.

We urge all States to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken to combat terrorism by prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts; by preventing the organization, instigation or financing of such acts against other States from within or outside their territories or by

organizations based in their territories; or by refraining from supplying arms or other means that could be used for terrorist acts in other States, among other actions.

Cuba also rejects acts, measures and the use or the threat of the use of force that violate the United Nations Charter and international law and that any State imposes or tries to impose against others under the pretext of combating terrorism. Likewise, our country categorically rejects the unilateral drawing up of lists accusing States of allegedly supporting terrorism, which are inconsistent with international law.

We are convinced that multilateral cooperation, under the auspices of the United Nations, is the most effective way to combat international terrorism. We stress the importance of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by all Member States. In that respect, we consider it appropriate to convene an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, so as to define terrorism and adopt comprehensive and effective measures for joint action against it. We support the conclusion, as soon as possible and within the framework of the United Nations, of a comprehensive convention on combating international terrorism that includes the definition of terrorism.

For years, our country has been submitting to the Security Council detailed information on the terrorist acts against Cuba by various individuals and organizations, as well as on the conspiratorial protection that the United States Government offers them. To date, our denunciations have not received any concrete response from the Council.

It has been over a year and a half since the release in the United States of the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who is rightly designated the most notorious terrorist of the Western hemisphere. Despite having all the evidence against him for his countless terrorist acts, the United States Government has never done so. Cuba believes that that case is a clear and flagrant violation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as a number of international legal instruments pertaining to the fight against terrorism. Once again, the Cuban Government demands that the United States authorities return the terrorist to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which has requested his extradition, or that they try him on their territory.

While it lets self-confessed and unscrupulous terrorists go free, for over 10 years the United States Government has been keeping in high-security prisons five Cuban anti-terrorist fighters political prisoners, who were only trying, with great self-sacrifice and courage, to obtain information on Miami-based terrorist groups, so as to prevent their violent acts and save the lives of Cuban and United States citizens. Once again, we demand their immediate release.

Double standards cannot prevail. It is impossible to eliminate terrorism, if some terrorist acts are condemned, while others are silenced, tolerated or justified. Cuba has never allowed, nor will it allow its territory to be used for terrorist acts against any State, without exception. As we have until now, we will continue firmly to fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mrs. Eilon Shahar (Israel): At the outset, Sir, I would like to thank you for convening this timely debate. I would also like to thank you for your leadership as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and I further recognize the Croatian stewardship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Terrorism. I also welcome the participation of the President of Croatia and the Secretary-General in this debate.

Israel believes that the issue of terrorism deserves to be among the highest priorities of this Council, the United Nations as a whole and all Member States. We welcome the opportunity to help reinvigorate international resolve to combat terrorism.

The recent horrific events in Mumbai clearly demonstrated that terrorism is one of the greatest global threats to international peace and security in recent history. My Government extends its condolences to the Indian people. Citizens from a number of other nations, including Israel, were also killed in those horrific days, and we also extend our condolences to the citizens of those countries, and especially to the families of all those who were lost and injured.

Among the locations targeted by the terrorists was the Chabad House, where Israelis were singled out for cold-blooded murder. Rising out of the maelstrom of unspeakable acts was an Indian caregiver, who risked her life to save a two-year-old Israeli child. The

caregiver's actions are proof that, while terrorists seek to destroy our way of life, the noblest human impulses and values must and will prevail.

The events in Mumbai have shown, once again, that terrorism knows no borders and that international cooperation is crucial to defeating it. The chain of cooperation, from country to country, must be strong and complete. Otherwise, the terrorists will find the weak link and exploit it. We must control our borders, shut off the valve of funds to terrorist networks, including through sources such as drug trafficking, and face terrorism with a seamless, united front, pursuing terrorists wherever they may be. We also urge States to fully implement all their obligations under international law and to adhere to all relevant Security Council resolutions.

Israel lies in a region heavily scarred by terrorism, and my country, in particular, has been on the front line of efforts to combat that evil for many decades. Israelis and Jews are targeted at home and abroad because of the passport they carry or their religion. Like any other terrorist group, Hezbollah and Hamas, two organizations committed to the destruction of my country, could not operate without the support given to them by States, in this case, Iran and Syria. We urge the international community to stand firm against those organizations and to speak in one voice against any State sponsorship of terrorism.

Terrorism is spreading at an alarming rate, expanding both in geography and in the audacity of the crimes. Terrorists abuse the benefits of globalization, including the free flow of people and information, in order to bring fear, misery and death to innocent civilians. We must also be acutely aware of the dangers of cyberterrorism. The perpetrators of terrorist acts operate outside the conventions of international relations and, indeed, in violation of basic human behaviour norms. They are not constrained by law, reason or even self-preservation. It is precisely those factors that have made this plague so difficult to fight.

Yet, in spite of the scale of the threat, we are hopeful. We have the tools to combat terrorists, but what we are lacking is universal political will. There are some regions and nations that have not displayed the needed sense of urgency. In some cases, States may turn a blind eye to terrorists in their midst. In other cases, they may even use terrorist organizations as a tool of foreign policy. However, whether the support is active or passive, it is still support. States that assist terrorists will, at the very least, alienate themselves from the international community. They must also be made to understand that they are helping to undermine their own sovereignty and that it is difficult to reverse that downward spiral.

Around the world there are failed States and States in danger of collapse that have the destructive capacity in either raw materials or developed technology that can be used in weapons of mass destruction. In that environment, it is critical that while we combat terrorism, we do everything within our power to ensure that terrorists cannot gain access to any capacity to inflict mass destruction.

There can be no excuse or justification for terrorism, for State sponsorship of terrorism or States closing their eyes to the problem within their own borders. All manifestations of terrorism must be condemned, and we should deny any attempt to legitimize certain kinds of terrorism or to make the distinction between good terrorism and bad terrorism. The General Assembly and the Security Council consistently reaffirm this position.

Religious and political leaders have a special responsibility to speak out against fanaticism and extremism. Terrorist movements indoctrinate their adherents — often susceptible youth — into believing that violence is the only means available to realize their goals. Some movements glorify martyrdom. We need to address incitement to violence at all levels, in the political sphere, in schools and in houses of worship.

Combating terrorism is a difficult task, but one which no State, no matter how limited in resources or capacity, need tackle alone. Technical assistance in many fields is available through a number of international mechanisms, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. We applaud the work of these bodies and urge States to use and support these available resources.

In conclusion, history tries to teach us a lesson that we too often forget. Appeasement, silence and neglect make a risky strategy in the face of danger. Instead, let each one of us do all we can to confront this threat. We should send a clear message through our

actions that the nations of the world are resolved to eliminate terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Singapore.

Mr. Menon (Singapore): I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest condolences to our Indian colleagues as well as to all who lost loved ones in the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai. The attacks have shown that terrorism is a threat that spares no one. The fatalities from the attacks included more than 20 foreigners from at least nine countries. Singapore was also not left untouched by this tragedy. A Singaporean woman, killed in the Mumbai attacks, was the first Singaporean to fall victim to modern-day terrorists.

The tragic events in Mumbai are a grim reminder that the scourge of terrorism continues unabated. Singapore stands firmly behind the Indian Government in its fight against terrorism. It is equally if not even more important for countries in the South Asian region to work closely with one another to tackle a scourge that has cost countless lives and brought pain and suffering to all within the region. Not to do so would be to waste a golden opportunity and play into the very hands of those who seek to sow the seeds of discord among the peoples of the region.

Seven years after the 11 September attacks and six years since the first bomb attacks in Bali, terrorism persists. The latest attacks in Mumbai, as well as the continued incidents in Iraq and Afghanistan, underscore the common terrorist threat that we continue to face.

Terrorists continue to adapt and evolve. By decentralizing their networks, spawning independent home-grown groups and harnessing modern technology, they are making it that much more difficult for security authorities to detect and predict future attacks. We are also seeing more and more instances of plots or attacks involving self-radicalized individuals. These individuals are not recruited by any terrorist groups; they become exposed to deviant ideology, frequently through the Internet, and embrace the radical ideas they come across. They then facilitate, or worse, participate in, terrorism.

Singapore recognizes the diversity and constantly evolving nature of terrorism. The Singapore Government has adopted a multipronged strategy to deal with terrorism. The first element of this strategy is the use of a multi-ministry networked approach. Such an approach integrates the work of otherwise separate bodies, enables inter-agency coordination and allows the Government to leverage the strengths of diverse organizations.

The second element in our strategy is community engagement. Singapore is a multicultural and multireligious society; every community must play its part to hold society together during a crisis. Singapore's Prime Minister launched the Community Engagement Programme in February 2006. This Programme aims to strengthen understanding and develop trust among various ethnic communities and across society. The goal is to be able to maintain social harmony after any terrorist attack. A number of interfaith events, dialogues and forums have been held under the auspices of this Programme.

Singapore also relies heavily on members of all of its religious communities to help counter any misrepresentations of religion. For example, after several members of the Jemaah Islamiyah group were apprehended for planning terrorist acts on Singaporean soil, our Muslim community stepped forward to help rehabilitate them. Muslim clerics from the Religious Rehabilitation Group work closely with the Singapore authorities to counsel the detainees and their families to correct their misinterpretation of Islam. The Religious Rehabilitation Group has also reached out to the wider community, both Muslim and non-Muslim, through forums and publications.

Another key element in our strategy is cooperation with the international community. Terrorism is a global problem and it obviously requires a global response. The United Nations continues to play an important role in sending a clear political signal that the international community's condemnation of terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations is consistent, unequivocal and strong. In this regard, Singapore welcomes the General Assembly's review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September this year. Having assessed how far we have come and what else needs to be done, we should leave rhetoric aside and redouble our efforts to implement concrete counter-terrorism measures. Singapore is doing its part at the national and regional levels to implement the Strategy. We look forward to continued and closer cooperation with other Member States and

to interacting with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to further enhance counter-terrorism efforts at the United Nations. Singapore also looks forward to further progress in discussions on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism at the upcoming ad hoc committee meetings during the current session of the General Assembly.

Terrorism cuts across national, geographic, religious and ethnic boundaries. The transnational nature of modern-day terrorism means that all Governments will be faced with the challenge of confronting this menace. Terrorists seldom work in isolation and more often than not operate in well-organized networks of individuals, cells and groups around the world. The battle will be long-drawn-out. Modern-day terrorists have deep ideological roots and the adherents of these ideologies are prepared to go to extreme lengths to achieve their aims. Therefore, it is imperative that countries stay the course and continue to work closely to combat this scourge and exchange information on strategies to address the root causes of the issue. It is only through our combined efforts that we can hope to defeat the terrorist networks we are currently facing.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to congratulate you, Sir, and the delegation of Croatia on convening this debate. We would also like to acknowledge the Croatian delegation's work in heading the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

First of all, we would like to express the solidarity and condolences of Mexico to the families of the victims and to the people and the Government of India for the tragic events of 26 November in Mumbai. We regret the loss of so many human lives, among them that of a Mexican citizen.

Terrorist attacks that have occurred in various regions of the world require us to redouble our efforts in international cooperation in combating terrorism, and we firmly reiterate our rejection of terrorist activity in any form or manifestation.

Mexico would like to stress the central role of the Organization in combating terrorism and would recall the framework that is the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. However, its effectiveness will depend on the coordinated and comprehensive implementation of the Strategy, and that is based on its four pillars.

I would like to refer to the human rights pillar. For my delegation, that is a central element in any activity to combat terrorism. Since 2001, Mexico has consistently urged that States ensure that the measures that they adopt to combat terrorism comply with their obligations with regard to international law, in particular those relating to human rights, refugees and humanitarian law. During our most recent term as a member of the Security Council in 2003, we supported the adoption of this approach in resolution 1456 (2003). Some weeks ago, the Third Committee of the General Assembly took up this issue in a substantive way, and we hope that in the next few days the Assembly will adopt the resolution entitled "Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism".

In view of the intensification of communications in the globalized world in which we live, it is easy for terrorist organizations to use advanced technology and resources to achieve their objectives. For this reason, we consider the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) especially important, particularly the work to strengthen measures to detect and withhold financing for terrorist purposes. Also, we should prevent those organizations from having recourse to activities such as transnational organized crime, trafficking in illicit drugs, money-laundering and arms trafficking for their own purposes.

Mexico believes that it would be timely to strengthen cooperation among the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), as well as among the respective groups of experts, and to clarify differences in their mandates and activities.

Mexico is fully committed to combating terrorism. My country has actively participated in the drawing up of treaties on this issue and seeks to faithfully implement relevant Security Council resolutions. Mexico is a party to the 13 international legal instruments on terrorism and the two that exist in the inter-American sphere.

We are especially concerned about the access terrorist organizations have to conventional weapons and the ease of that access due to the existing legal vacuums that promote illicit arms trafficking, constituting a threat to the security of many States.

Additionally, combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is essential to preventing access to those weapons by terrorist organizations. Mexico recognizes the value of resolution 1540 (2004) in this regard, as well as the efforts made by States to achieve its full implementation.

Mexico believes that the United Nations should give priority to comprehensive strategies in combating terrorism in order to seek a lasting solution that deals with the causes of conflicts and corrects at their roots the impulses that lead to terrorism.

In this sense, the most effective actions against terrorism are those that promote economic and social development, because this scourge is not produced in a void. Its origins and development are linked to specific social, political and economic conditions, as well as to concrete historical conflicts that have not been resolved. It is in this framework that attempts are made to foment or justify terrorist acts.

Also, specific and timely attention is necessary for humanitarian problems and promoting education and health in regions with the most severe structural problems in order to prevent the emergence and proliferation of terrorist organizations. For this reason, Mexico believes that for an effective fight against terrorism, the international community must maintain a comprehensive and coordinated strategy. Insofar as the international community can remain united, respecting its values and strengthening international cooperation, our chances of success will be better. We will fight terrorism while promoting, defending and ensuring respect for our own values.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. Argüello (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would first like to express Argentina's condemnation of the recent terrorist acts in Mumbai and its solidarity with the Government and people of India.

I wish to express our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate. The subject is, I wish to stress, of the utmost importance for all States and for my country. I also wish to recognize Croatia for preparing the concept paper before us. It is very useful for today's debate in the Security Council.

The Argentine Republic believes that international terrorist acts constitute a threat to peace and international security, to life and human dignity and to peaceful and civilized coexistence. They also endanger stability, democracy and the socio-economic development of nations. In recent years, my country suffered two brutal terrorist attacks, and we will not cease to seek and punish the perpetrators.

An effective fight against terrorism necessarily entails the commitment of the whole international community, participating together organically and permanently, legitimized by the fact that that commitment is based on respect for general international law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Such organic and institutionalized participation to prevent and eliminate terrorism implies the direct involvement of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly and the Security Council and its subsidiary organs, but also regional organizations. It also entails a two-fold commitment by individual States. On the one hand, they should become parties to the international instruments negotiated to confront terrorism, among which we emphasize the importance of the United Nations conventions. On the other hand, they should adopt domestic laws necessary to fully comply with such instruments.

I wish to report that my country has ratified the 12 United Nations conventions on terrorism and has enacted the domestic measures stipulated by those instruments. It has also ratified the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism and signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism.

At the national level, the Argentine Penal Code was amended in 2007 so as to incorporate the crime of illicit terrorist association. We have also amended Law 25.246, which created the Unit for Financial Information, and entrusted that Unit with the examination, treatment and transmission of information related to the laundering of the assets produced by the activities of an illicit terrorist group and the financing of terrorism. In the context of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), my country adopted the National Agenda for the Fight against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism.

My country gives priority to the fight against terrorism also at the regional level, in the Organization of American States (OAS) and MERCOSUR. In the case of MERCOSUR, Argentina actively participates in

its working groups on terrorism. As regards to the OAS, we participate in the activities of its Inter-American Committee against Terrorism. We also participate in the informal mechanism of the 3+1 Group on Tri-Border Area Security, composed of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and the United States.

As stated in the draft presidential statement to be adopted at the end of this debate, Argentina believes that Member States must work together urgently to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, while at the same time it emphasizes the central role of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism. We reaffirm the importance of all Security Council resolutions and those of the General Assembly.

Finally, Argentina reiterates its call, already expressed, and as the President of the Security Council will do on this occasion, to States to become parties, as soon as possible, to all international instruments dealing with terrorism and to implement those to which they are party. Likewise, we join in firmly condemning the incitement to commit terrorist acts and repudiate any attempt to justify such acts, as that could incite the commission of other terrorist acts.

The President: I now call on the representative of Turkey.

Mr. İlkin (Turkey): At the outset, I wish to thank Croatia for taking the initiative to organize this open debate on such an important issue. I would also like to thank His Excellency the President of Croatia for presiding over this morning's part of our meeting.

In fact, terrorism is already one of the most discussed topics at the United Nations. There is every reason for that, since terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Indeed, it concerns all nations, large and small, and it takes its toll on human beings of every age, culture, religion and nationality.

In other words, we all are vulnerable to this global scourge. Thus, it requires a firm and united response by all Member States. And that is why we see each and every discussion on this issue, including today's debate, as useful in helping us to better understand various national and regional perspectives so as to find common ground for joint and more effective responses.

In that regard, I would like to add my voice to those of previous speakers in strongly condemning all acts and practices of terrorism. Terrorism is a crime against humanity, and it can never be justified under any pretext, regardless of its motivations and objectives.

The recent heinous terrorist attack in the city of Mumbai underscored once again the importance of a firm commitment on the part of the international community to effectively combat and eradicate terrorism. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families, who were targets of that monstrous crime against humanity. It once again underlined the fact that it is only through a coherent, consistent and resolute stance on the part of the international community that we can gain the upper hand against this scourge. We therefore hope that our debate today not only will send a strong message confirming our determination and unity in the fight against terrorism, but also can identify ways and means to further strengthen the central role of the United Nations in global counter-terrorism efforts.

In fact, this Organization has already made some significant contributions to global counter-terrorism efforts, primarily through norm-setting and capacity-building. We commend those endeavours. However, we can by no means consider our mission accomplished. In the area of norm-setting, for instance, we ought to finalize, without further delay, our work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and present the international community with a comprehensive instrument that would further strengthen our efforts to combat terrorism.

As regards capacity-building, on the other hand, the United Nations should continue to strengthen the facilitation of technical assistance aimed at enhancing the capabilities of Member States in the fight against terrorism. We must help those countries that are willing to shoulder their counter-terrorism obligations but lack the necessary resources and expertise to do so.

In that context, we note with appreciation certain steps taken, such as the recently introduced Preliminary Implementation Assessment mechanism, which is expected to identify areas in which countries need to take additional measures for the full and efficient implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

We also welcome the completion of the general survey of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and we are

looking forward to having the draft technical implementation guide that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate is currently preparing. We hope that those initial steps will pave the way for the United Nations to play a more regulatory and guiding role in steering our counter-terrorism efforts.

That said, we need to work on developing a global monitoring mechanism that would not only identify threats and perpetrators in clear terms, but also highlight the weak and strong aspects of our implementation of the resolutions and agreements that we collectively underwrite. It is only through such central and effective monitoring and follow-up mechanisms that we will be able to fulfil our commitments and encourage tangible and substantive cooperation among Member States in a way that can create a synergy of efforts.

Turkey, as an advocate of strong international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism, is ready and willing to contribute to all efforts to that end. In the light of our upcoming membership, we are also looking forward to actively and constructively participating in the counter-terrorism activities of the Security Council in the next two years by sharing our experiences and best practices on this matter.

Before concluding, allow me to briefly mention the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, which was launched in 2005 by the Secretary-General under the sponsorship of Turkey and Spain. The initiative, which is aimed at building bridges among diverse cultures and religions through our common values and ideals, could in fact be one of the most effective ways of dealing with all forms of extremism, including terrorism.

Finally, we thank you once again, Mr. President, for convening this meeting. We are looking forward to working with you in strengthening the international community's fight against terrorism.

The President: I now call on the representative of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): At the outset, on behalf of my Government, I would like to commend the initiative of the Croatian presidency of the Security Council to hold this debate, which indeed offers a timely opportunity to engage in open deliberations with a view to strengthening international solidarity and the leading role of the United Nations in global counter-terrorism activities.

We remember all victims of terrorist acts and express our condolences to the people of India and the families of those who suffered as a result of the recent terrorist attacks on Mumbai. Azerbaijan strongly condemns terrorism as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and is making sustained efforts to contribute to the international community's efforts aimed at consistent, comprehensive and coordinated responses to prevent and combat terrorism.

In addition to the potential threats facing us as a result of our proximity to hotbeds of conflict and regions that harbour major terrorist groups and are sources of proliferation problems, Azerbaijan is a direct target of specific externally sponsored terrorist activity. Since the late 1980s, neighbouring Armenia openly encroached upon the territory of Azerbaijan and, in addition to launching combat operations there, resorted to deliberate terrorist attacks against my country's citizens and critical infrastructure as a way to implement its annexationist policy. In total, as a result of the terrorist acts against Azerbaijan, more than 2,000 of Azerbaijan's citizens have been killed, the majority of them women, elderly persons and children.

Indeed, terrorism is closely related to aggressive separatism. Areas of armed conflict — especially territories under foreign military occupation — often create conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorists. Thus, the continuing occupation of a part of Azerbaijan's territory by Armenia provides fertile ground for terrorist and related activities.

Against that background, we are seriously concerned, inter alia, by the fact that conventional arms control mechanisms are not effective in such territories. The accumulation of a great number of armaments and ammunition there, beyond the reach of international control, poses a serious threat to regional peace and security. Our particular concern relates to the possibility of the use by terrorist groups of specific weapons, including individual anti-aircraft missile systems.

Those trends have had an immediate impact on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is no accident that Armenia's military expenditures, calculated in terms of gross domestic product, are among the highest in the world. We regret that

members of the international community — especially those mediating the negotiation process — show a certain indifference to this problem, which in fact negatively affects the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the conflict as soon as possible.

In this regard, we deem it necessary to take more efficient measures aimed at preventing those who are in effective military and political control of occupied territories from acquiring conventional weapons and to disclose their attempts to deny responsibility. Equally, reinforcement of existing non-proliferation mechanisms acquires additional significance and must be a serious part of the international effort.

An important condition of counter-terrorist activity is that States refrain from organizing, financing, encouraging, providing, training or otherwise directly or indirectly supporting terrorist activities. Furthermore, insofar as international terrorist activities still rely on physical movement to reach another country in order to promote their messages and in certain instances to collect material resources, it is important that States take appropriate practical measures to ensure that their respective territories are not used for such activities, especially when they are aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States.

Terrorists must never be allowed to create a pretext for their actions. All terrorist acts constitute serious crimes; they are unjustifiable and unacceptable and must be unequivocally condemned and prosecuted.

The absence of a clear definition of terrorism in international law merely hampers the efforts of the international community to bring not only individual terrorists and organizations to account, but also States that promote, support or finance terrorist activities. In this regard, Azerbaijan reiterates its determination to make every effort to reach an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that will serve as an effective instrument to counter terrorism.

The war on terrorism should not be used to target any particular religion or culture. Today, we are living at a time of heightened religious awareness, which in certain instances takes on exaggerated forms and sometimes is maliciously exploited to fuel conflicts on ethnic, religious or cultural grounds. In recent years, unacceptable attacks against Islam in some countries confirm the vital necessity of joint efforts and dialogue to counter such defamatory manifestations and misconceptions.

Constructive interaction between different cultures and religions, including in the framework of such initiatives as the culture of peace and the Alliance of Civilizations, should continue playing a special role in contributing to peace and mutual understanding and thus to the efficient implementation of counter-terrorism measures.

The President: I call on the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Park In-Kook (Republic of Korea): I would like to take this opportunity to strongly condemn the indiscriminate violence that struck Mumbai through a series of ugly and odious terrorist acts. On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea, I would also like to convey our deepest condolences to the victims, their families, the Government of India and its people. We wish the injured a speedy recovery.

Despite the strengthened efforts of the international community, terrorism has continued to plague countries across the globe and remains a great concern to the international community. It hinders the reconstruction and stabilization of war-torn countries and the well-being of all people. Further, the increasing links between terrorism and transnational crime are also alarming. Strengthening law enforcement in capturing and dismantling terrorist organizations and improving the capacity of States to prevent and combat terrorism are important elements in countering the threat of terrorism.

Moreover, addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism would contribute to strengthening the international response to the scourge of terrorism as underlined in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In this regard, measures such as the easing of socio-economic marginalization, the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and the integration of ethnic and religious minorities would complement the efforts of the international community to counter terrorism in a sustainable manner.

Strongly convinced that terrorism should be eradicated regardless of its forms and motivations, the Republic of Korea is fully committed to preventing and combating acts of terrorism and its misguided extremist ideology. To this end, the Government of the Republic of Korea is actively participating in

international efforts by faithfully implementing Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004). It also joins other efforts such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

In order to effectively respond to terrorist threats, comprehensive and systematic counter-terrorism efforts are required at the global level. In this regard, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy offers a solid basis for international counter-terrorism cooperation. The Republic of Korea strongly supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the complete implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy.

The Strategy also emphasizes coordinated joint efforts by encouraging Member States and international and regional organizations to support its implementation through mobilizing resources and expertise. The harmonization of counter-terrorism measures and the exchange of best practices of various regions and Member States is an important element in the effort to cope with terrorism.

It is time now to make another serious attempt, together with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to adopt a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would reinforce the legal network to prevent international terrorism. In an effort to strengthen legal instruments, it is also essential for all Member States to become party to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and to assist each other in doing so. In this regard, the Republic of Korea has ratified 12 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

The United Nations actions to counter terrorism are continuously evolving to adapt to constantly changing threats. The United Nations concentrates its efforts on devising a harmonized international framework that ensures effectiveness, efficiency and continuous improvement. The United Nations should keep playing a central role in these well established mechanisms of international counter-terrorism cooperation. Greater interaction and complementary cooperation between the Security Council and the General Assembly should be continuously promoted to ensure synergy in the efforts of the United Nations to counter the threat of terrorism.

The recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai and frequent attacks elsewhere in the world have demonstrated only too clearly that terrorism is an indiscriminate affront to universal values and civilizations. Terrorism cannot be linked to a particular nationality, religion, civilization or culture. It is simply a common threat we are facing, which requires solidarity in the international community.

The President: I call on the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. Davide (Philippines): Tomorrow we celebrate the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Only last 24 October, we also celebrated the sixty-third anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter. Above all measures, these are historic milestones for the United Nations and are events of unparalleled significance.

One of the purposes of the Charter is to maintain international peace and security and to that end, inter alia, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace. In its preamble, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world and that disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts that have outraged the conscience of mankind. These rights include the rights to life, liberty and security.

There can be no doubt at all that terrorist acts are threats to international peace and security. Hence, the holding of this debate on the agenda item "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts" is certainly very timely and appropriate. Thus, the Philippines commends and expresses its gratitude to the President of the Security Council for organizing this debate.

More than enough has been said and recorded in the United Nations system on terrorism. The latest comprehensive report of the Secretary-General under agenda item 118 of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, entitled "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy" (A/62/898), shows us the complexity of the problems created by international terrorism as it affects international peace and security; the progress made

thus far in combating it; and the measures recommended to be pursued to prevent or counter terrorism.

In my speech at the tenth annual International Judicial Conference, held in Strasbourg, France, in May 2002 under the sponsorship of the Center for Democracy, the Council of Europe and the Furth Family Foundation, I asserted that we must resist the temptation to attribute to terrorism some kind of mythic magnitude that makes it larger than life. I told the audience that terrorism is man-made; therefore, it can be solved by men and women of resolve.

Today, I say that there is one body that is much greater than the men and women of resolve. It is the United Nations, with its 192 Member States. Not only does it have the resolve, it has the will, the power, the might and the resources to counter and solve terrorism and to demolish, if it wishes to, every act of terrorism in any part of the globe. With the deadly tentacles of terrorism spreading over many places, the latest of which was Mumbai, India, the United Nations must now more than ever assert its power and might.

For this debate, allow me to contribute a few thoughts on how the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, can move further forward in this fight against terrorism from the legal and judicial perspectives, with which I have some familiarity.

I respectfully submit, as I did at the Strasbourg Conference I mentioned earlier, that there should now be a universally accepted definition of terrorism and a condemnation thereof as a crime, with a recognition of the criminal intent of fomenting fear and terror. I find in the report of the Secretary-General, referred to earlier, that there is an Ad Hoc Committee, established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, that is tasked with drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and is ably supported by the Office of Legal Affairs. While having achieved some progress, the Committee is finding some disagreements among Member States regarding the scope of the convention, and attempts will be made to resolve them in the Sixth Committee during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly. The convention could be the proper document for the definition of terrorism.

At that same Conference, I also stated that the United Nations lost its first opportunity to establish a definition of the crime of terrorism when the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was deliberated upon and approved by 160 Member States. Moreover, the Statute could even have included terrorism as one of the crimes recognized by the Court.

I hope that the Security Council and the General Assembly can do something to expedite the adoption of the convention on terrorism, which is still in the drawing board of the Ad Hoc Committee. Likewise, I wish to reiterate here the proposal I made before the same Strasbourg Conference for national legislatures to enact laws defining and punishing terrorism as a crime. It could be treated as a crime in violation of the law of nations. This would have two legal consequences. First, it would make applicable the doctrine of universal jurisdiction. Secondly, it would provide for concurrent jurisdictions between international courts and domestic courts and allow the latter to yield jurisdiction to international courts according to treaty obligations.

The Philippines has already enacted a law, the Human Security Act of 2007, defining and penalizing two crimes: first, terrorism; and secondly, conspiracy to commit terrorism.

Finally, allow me to state that among the strong and effective deterrents to the commission of crimes are the expeditious prosecution and trial of cases against the offenders and the rendition of just, fair and impartial judgement. Delays in the prosecution, trials and judgement of terrorists would send wrong signals to them and their co-conspirators. It would either embolden them to assert their strength and make a mockery of the weakness of the processes aligned against them, or give them reason to claim that their comrades in detention are deprived of due process and then instigate an escalation in their terrorist acts.

Things would have been entirely different if, for example, there had been expeditious prosecution and trials and the meting of justice to terrorists involved in the 9/11 tragedy and similar tragedies. Continuous trials of these cases must be adopted as a standard practice. In this regard, the United Nations must do something.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Jordan.

Mr. Al-Allaf (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Croatia for holding this important meeting. We would like to

welcome his role in chairing the Counter-Terrorism Committee, an auxiliary body of the Security Council. We appreciate the concept paper that was presented by the President as a basis for the Council's work in today's meeting. We would like to thank His Excellency the President of Croatia for his presence.

Allow me also, on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein and the Government and people of Jordan, to present our sincere condolences to the people of India for the terrible suffering that they have endured after the reprehensible terrorist attacks in Mumbai. We condemn these despicable acts in the strongest terms. We express our deep sympathy to the bereaved families of the victims and reiterate our solidarity with these families during this trying time.

The Mumbai terrorist acts sought to send a clear and strong signal to people throughout the world that terrorism is not simply a threat to international peace and security and that it is no longer confined to political, psychological and material damages, but that it also seeks to make itself a crucial actor on the international scene, to participate in defining the security environment throughout the world and to impose its personality and fingerprints on regional conflicts.

We think that the message got through. This message causes great concern to people throughout the world. It raises essential questions in terms of the future of combating terrorism. An important question is: Should we take it that the Mumbai incident is a strategic turning point, inasmuch as it pushes extremism and evil into bilateral and regional conflicts? Also, through these forces, is terrorism then trying to reach its objectives with a minimum degree of visibility, of losses and of responsibility? This message requires a serious reply from the international community.

This step requires a strategic transformation on our part. Our political will and that of the international community and international organizations must be brought to bear on it. We must transform our vision of terrorism and our determination to defeat it. We must transform our reading of the magnitude, scope and depth of the threat posed by terrorism to the international community, human values and the prosperity of societies. We must also bolster our determination to establish the appropriate political, security and social environment necessary to defeat terrorism. Lastly, there is a need to harmonize the resolve of the international community, which is at the heart of that vision.

It is illogical and unacceptable that international terrorism can adapt, renew itself and manoeuvre while the international community continues to be held hostage to slow bureaucracies in combating it due to its insufficient determination and indecisive tools. In his concept paper, the President cited some of the serious bureaucratic difficulties that constitute serious obstacles in the face of the scope and dynamism of terrorist acts and highlight our ineffectiveness to combat them. We recognize the great strategic value of counter-terrorism and its importance as a basis for international efforts. However, the structure of our global strategy must be adapted and its ability to respond quickly must be enhanced. That is the only way to achieve the goals of counter-terrorism at the level of this international Organization.

The current situation therefore calls for calm and reason, and not for tension, hasty action or misguided decisions. The policy of escalation will only serve the interests of terrorists, who are wagering on such a policy. We must therefore avoid escalation. My country supports the wise efforts that have been made to demonstrate restraint and reason. Those efforts reflect the will of the international community and its determination to avoid more regional confrontations, which undermine international peace and security and divert counter-terrorism from its real objectives.

Jordan itself is a long-standing victim of terrorism. We have taken pioneering steps to support international efforts to combat terrorism and have always been an important part of the partnership to that end. We have signed most of the international agreements and protocols that constitute the international counter-terrorism regime. Jordan has also developed a national strategy to combat terrorism that serves as an example of the balance that must exist between the need to provide security and protect society, on the one hand, and the need to safeguard human rights, civil liberties, the rule of law and social and economic development, on the other. That sensitive balance allows us to avert the effects of terrorism and to achieve great harmony between the Government and the people in combating terrorism. We are confident that our success in combating terrorism depends on more than just deterrence, security measures and a professional military. Our strategic vision also

encompasses other crucial elements, such as legal, financial, economic and social ways of combating terrorism.

Jordan has also been a pioneer in promoting the culture of peace. We have undertaken several initiatives and established numerous programmes that emphasize education about and awareness of the dangers of terrorism in order to enable us to devise policies to confront extremism and encourage dialogue among religions and civilizations.

Combating terrorism is a joint international responsibility. No single State can be successful in combating terrorism if it isolates itself from international efforts. We are certain that genuine partnership and effective international cooperation in the framework of the United Nations hold the real key to the success of our efforts. Jordan therefore strongly supports the central role played by the United Nations in combating terrorism. We similarly support strengthening the capacity of this international Organization, including its determination to play an effective and constructive role. We shall continue to meet our international responsibilities in the context of that partnership, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and multilateral international conventions pertaining to the danger posed by terrorism. The Government of Jordan has always taken a positive stance on the working methods of the Security Council, which reflects our seriousness and responsibility vis-à-vis the threat of terrorism. It also reflects the importance that we attach to international cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my country's determination to abide by the international partnership to combat terrorism as established by the Security Council standards.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I would like to commend you, Mr. President, for convening this timely debate, which is an eloquent expression of the importance that your Government attaches to the fight against terrorism. The statement delivered by the President of Croatia, whose presence in the Chamber this morning we appreciated very much, serves as a great contribution to our joint consideration of this very important matter. I should also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his presentation. My delegation is grateful for his efforts to stimulate and support multilateral cooperation against threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

In recent days, the world has once again been shocked by a series of deadly terrorist acts, this time in India. Allow me to reiterate our deep condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the Government and people of India and to the families of the victims.

The boldness and savagery shown in Mumbai remind us that the international community must stand together and work harder to prevent such events from recurring. Those responsible for the killing and destruction must be brought to justice without delay, so that there can be no doubt that the lives of civilians will be protected and the rule of law will prevail against the criminals who wish them ill.

There is no possible justification for terrorism. Killing innocent civilians is never acceptable. That is why Brazil strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. More than a position of successive Governments, the repudiation of terrorism is enshrined in the federal Constitution itself as a guiding principle of Brazilian foreign policy.

My country is also a party to all international conventions and protocols against terrorism, except for the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which is under consideration by the National Congress.

Acts such as those seen in Mumbai must be met with our resolute willingness to deepen our cooperation, as envisaged in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Strategy is particularly relevant because it promotes responses to terrorism that are comprehensive, coordinated and consistent. Many of its elements make it clear that it is an instrument of justice, peace and order and not of vengeance, discrimination or blind attachment to the status quo.

It is therefore crucial to combat terrorism in strict observance of international law. Only procedures adopted in accordance with the United Nations Charter and other relevant treaties, in particular human rights instruments and international humanitarian and refugee law, can be truly successful and garner the necessary support. Those procedures are essential to preserve the

moral standing of Governments fighting terrorism and to win the battle where victory is most needed — in the hearts and minds of those whom terrorists claim to defend but in fact threaten, hurt and often kill.

Further developing international law can only help to fight terrorism effectively. Brazil strongly supports the adoption of a comprehensive counter-terrorism convention. We will continue to contribute to the negotiations and efforts to achieve our common goal. We hope that substantial results can be achieved shortly and that a high-level conference on the matter can be convened.

Another essential element of our collective struggle is enhanced judicial cooperation and exchange of information among States, especially among financial and police intelligence agencies. In that regard, the counter-terrorism committees of the Security Council have played an outstanding role. Their working methods have been improved in recent years so as to make them more effective while respecting basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. The committees constitute a valuable tool to ensure a coordinated response from the international community to the threats posed by terrorist acts.

Although indispensable, repression is not enough to put an end to terrorism. Prevention is key if we want to rid the planet of such a scourge. We must eliminate or at least mitigate non-material factors that may breed terrorist acts, including political, ethnic, racial, cultural and religious intolerance. Education for peace and diversity has become a necessity, and a particularly urgent one in some quarters of the globe, East and West. But such an urgent task is to be performed by all, everywhere and at all times. At the international level, initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilizations are most welcome because they help to bridge the gap between different cultures. They promote mutual understanding, tolerance and the broad acceptance of different world views.

Preventing terrorism also requires addressing the social and economic divide among and within nations. We all know that terrorists thrive there where underdevelopment, poverty and hopelessness make extremism look like the only avenue open to real change. As President Lula has forcefully advocated since he first came to office, the international community must take decisive action to help Governments combat hunger and poverty worldwide. It is an obvious but often disregarded truth that those who feel included and cared for have a stake in the preservation of the social and political order that supports them.

In light of the above, Mr. President, my delegation cannot but join our voice to your Excellency's call for a multidimensional approach against terrorism that does not shy away from the use of force whenever necessary and at the same time fully understands the absolute need to address the powerful causes that make many choose extremism and violence. The right combination of strict law enforcement and broad inclusiveness will eventually lead us to success.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Ecuador.

Mr. Morejón (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for placing this open debate on the Security Council's programme in order to apprise us of the Council's efforts with regard to threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. There is no doubt that this type of public meeting and the growing interaction of the Council and its subsidiary bodies with non-member States are important efforts in the common goal of the Organization to combat terrorism.

On behalf of the Government of Ecuador, I join other delegations in expressing our most sincere condolences to the Government and people of India in connection with the reprehensible attacks in Mumbai.

Ecuador attaches great importance to the role of the United Nations in establishing a global order based on respect for international law, the principles and norms set out in the Charter and the observance and promotion of human rights and international humanitarian law. In that regard, my country supports the efforts of the United Nations to address the serious security problems we face — including combating terrorism, the global drug problem and transnational organized crime — by implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also support efforts to strengthen cooperation with the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1540 (2004) and 1373 (2001).

In accordance with the new Constitution of Ecuador, adopted this year by a large majority, my country shall undertake additional reforms in the criminal, banking and customs areas that will facilitate

the implementation of counter-terrorism measures, in particular the financing of terrorism. The national Government has also been working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a proposed reform to the criminal code.

At the same time, Ecuador has installed information technology in its ports and airports and strengthened its cooperation with international organizations, including Interpol, to share information on the movement of those suspected of transnational crimes and to prevent the international trafficking of arms, explosives, hazardous goods and chemical precursors. The country's security agencies are continuously updating the consolidated list on Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated persons and entities. Finally, with regard to transport security, Ecuador applies international standards for the security of air and maritime transport.

The implementation of Plan Ecuador represents to the international community our ongoing desire to address the problems of unconventional security issues from a different perspective as our concrete national and sovereign contribution to building peace in our border regions and the Andean subregion. We have enhanced our control operations along the border, leading to the dismantling of more than 160 clandestine camps of irregular groups, including rest posts and temporary drug-processing labs, and to the capture of arms and communications equipment.

Ecuador is the largest host for Colombian refugees in Latin America. In order to address that situation, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees we have implemented clear standards and humanitarian procedures for processing asylum requests so as to grant refugee status only to those who comply with the parametres established in our national legal instruments and international law.

In conclusion, my delegation is very interested in the statements made in this debate by various delegations, especially on the issue of the causes of terrorism. We believe it necessary to stress the importance of cooperation being aimed not only at strengthening national counter-terrorism capacities, which of course is critical but does not take into account the fact that, as stated in the Strategy, the fight against terrorism includes the fight against poverty and social inequality. That in turn requires international cooperation in the implementation of national policies to achieve sustained economic and social development through dialogue and inclusion.

We have spent many years and engaged in numerous deliberations on the ways to eliminate international terrorism. We therefore urge all States to overcome their differences and allow progress to be made on the relevant instruments, whose entry into force is imperative to strengthening counter-terrorism mechanisms.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Austria.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): At the outset, Austria would like to thank the Croatian presidency of the Security Council for this very timely and important initiative.

We express our solidarity and deep sympathy with the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai and their families. These heinous attacks amply demonstrate the need for a multilateral approach and confirm the pivotal role of the United Nations at the centre of our joint counter-terrorism efforts, as was stressed this morning by the Secretary-General in his statement.

Austria aligns itself with the statement of the French presidency on behalf of the European Union. I will thus limit my intervention to highlighting three points to which Austria attaches particular importance.

First, respect for human rights and the rule of law is a fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism. Effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually reinforcing. On the one hand, the development of an effective and rule of law-based national system of law enforcement and criminal justice is an essential element in preventing terrorist acts and in bringing terrorists to justice. On the other hand, we all must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with our obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

We welcome the steps taken by the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies in this regard, including the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, under the able chairmanship of Croatia, and its Executive Directorate in addressing human rights aspects of counter-terrorism in the context of

resolution 1373 (2001), as well as the efforts of the sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), ably chaired by Belgium, and its Monitoring Team to strengthen the procedures for listing and de-listing individuals and entities, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I would like to remind the Council of the report of Austrian initiative on the Security Council and the rule of law. As recommended in that report, it is important that the Security Council be proactive in further improving fair and clear procedures to protect the rights of individuals affected by its decisions.

My second point is that, in order to succeed, our counter-terrorism efforts require an integrated, balanced and multidimensional approach, covering a broad range of both hard and soft measures. For instance, it is essential to strengthen coordination and cooperation in combating crimes that are connected with terrorism, such as organized crime, human trafficking, drugs trafficking and the illicit arms trade. At the same time, we must redouble our efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and promote a culture of peace, mutual respect and tolerance, including through dialogue among religions and civilizations.

Combating the incitement of terrorist acts, radicalization and recruitment of terrorists, especially through the Internet, remains one of our key challenges. In that regard, we stress the need for full implementation of resolution 1624 (2005). Finally, we must further encourage active involvement of civil society, including the media, victims' organizations and the private sector in the fight against terrorism.

Third, and finally, as was explicitly recognized in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy, capacity-building is a core element of the global counter-terrorism effort. Many States lack the legal and organizational framework to effectively combat terrorism. Our key challenge is to support States by providing technical assistance to strengthen their capacity to prevent, to protect their citizens from and to respond to, terrorist attacks. In this context, Austria calls on the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate to intensify their very important efforts in facilitating assistance, and on the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime — which has so far provided technical assistance to more than 150 States — to further enhance its successful activities to develop the capacity of States.

Let me say once again that Austria warmly welcomes this open debate and the adoption of a presidential statement today. That will send a strong message to the world that we all stand united to overcome the global threat of terrorism.

The President: I next give the floor to the ambassador of New Zealand.

Ms. Banks (New Zealand): New Zealand joins other Member States in strong condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai. We repeat here our condolences to India for the tragic losses it suffered, as well as to those countries whose nationals were also affected.

The Mumbai attacks were a reminder that in spite of some significant successes in recent years, the scourge of international terrorism persists. There continue to be too many victims of terrorism in too many places. New Zealand remains unequivocal in our condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of terrorism in all its forms.

The terrorism we face today is a global phenomenon and as such requires a coordinated global response. The spread of terrorist attacks and the globalization of terrorist networks confirm that no region or country can be complacent when it comes to taking measures to combat terrorism. The United Nations, through the work of the General Assembly, the Security Council and its Committees and other bodies, is best placed to coordinate the global response.

New Zealand supported the adoption of the United Nations Global Strategy on Counter-Terrorism, and we work together with other Member States, particularly those in our region, to advance our collective efforts to implement the Strategy.

Equally important is the need for ongoing improvements in the implementation of the key Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism — resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). We support the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate in this regard. Next year, we look forward to welcoming a visit to New Zealand by officials from the Executive Directorate to discuss implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) in New Zealand and in our region.

There is a high level of commonality between the principles under the four pillars of the Global Strategy and those that guide New Zealand's approach to counter-terrorism domestically and within our region. Domestically, we remain determined to take all necessary measures to prevent and combat terrorism to ensure that our country is neither a target nor a source for terrorist activity. We continue to improve our legislative, policy and operational capabilities. Regional bodies too play a key role in coordinating responses to terrorism. We wish to draw attention to the statements unequivocally condemning terrorist acts made by leaders and ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation economies at their annual meeting in Lima last month. Leaders reiterated that terrorist acts can never be justified or excused and reaffirmed their collective commitment to eliminating the threat of terrorism.

New Zealand has been actively engaged in our region, building the capacity of partner countries to counter the threat of terrorism. We continue to help Pacific island countries meet the requirements of the international counter-terrorism agenda. We have been encouraged by the progress made in improving counter-terrorism legislation, policy and operational capability in the Pacific. In South-East Asia, New Zealand continues to support a number of counter-terrorism capacity-building initiatives both bilaterally with key partners and regionally through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The threat of international terrorism requires a comprehensive, multilayered and long-term response. Complementing our wider counter-terrorism efforts, New Zealand has also funded initiatives aimed at addressing the conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism through a programme of counter-radicalization activities.

Thank you, Mr. President, for Croatia's leadership on this fundamental issue and for the opportunity presented by today's debate to reaffirm New Zealand's steadfast commitment to combat and prevent terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Palihakkara (Sri Lanka): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate. We appreciate the participation of His Excellency the President of Croatia in this important discussion. His presence, as well as renewed interest in this debate, signifies the importance of this subject in today's context.

The threat to international peace and security caused by terrorism has serious consequences for humanity. It debases the traditional ethos on which States and societies are founded. Most importantly, it denies people their basic rights and fundamental freedoms.

Terrorism has assumed international dimensions through a mix of destructive transnational networks. Those networks hum with activities like fundraising, trafficking in people, drugs and illicit arms, including weapons with possible mass-destruction capabilities. They propagate hate literature and other forms of transnational subversion. As a former United Nations Secretary General once put it, the growing nexus between these activities, including through the dynamics of globalization, could constitute a supranational subversive threat to international peace and security.

The debate is also timely and topical. The world has barely recovered from the shock of recent terrorist attacks on innocent civilians in Mumbai, the commercial hub of our neighbour and friend, India. As a country that has suffered much from such terrorism, Sri Lanka has conveyed to the Government and people of India our sympathy and solidarity.

More terror attacks on more places in many of our countries continue on a daily basis. The orgy of attacks has led to the death and injury of numerous innocent civilians. This is in addition to enormous losses to infrastructure and economies. These types of attacks by terrorists, whether they are from within the region or outside — or even from within our own countries, including mine, where one of the most ruthless terrorist groups in the world, the so-called Tigers, remains a threat — demonstrate the growing transnational dimension of this scourge.

Terrorists are emboldened by such so-called tactical successes as these and, as the Secretary-General said this morning, they get carried away by the publicity won for whichever cause they espouse. They then become intransigent at the negotiating table and brazenly walk out of peace talks when Governments offer negotiable compromises as democratic solutions at negotiations. Then they go international — ideologically, diplomatically and financially. This is

exactly the situation engendered by today's so-called Tiger terrorism in Sri Lanka and abroad, after almost 25 years of efforts by successive elected Governments to negotiate political solutions. This situation requires a robust deterrent response to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) brand of terrorism and political solutions to its root causes. That is Sri Lanka's approach to the issue under discussion.

Democracies today have become especially vulnerable to terrorism and its international manifestations. The basic guarantees of fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as the political space available to different actors in a democracy are increasingly exploited and constrained by terrorists.

The Security Council has addressed the threat of terrorism in its different resolutions, particularly resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001). The Council remains preoccupied with Al-Qaida, the Taliban and associated groups, against which specific targeted measures have been taken through listing, naming and shaming. Resolution 1373 (2001), on the other hand, provides a common framework for international cooperation in taking specific and comprehensive measures against terrorism irrespective of the type of perpetrator of such atrocious acts. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Executive Directorate, as well as other multilateral mechanisms and several international legal instruments relevant to combating terrorism, can be synergized through the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Such collective action would provide an appropriate architecture for harnessing global efforts to combat and eliminate this clear and present threat to peace and security.

It is high time that we galvanized all these mechanisms and measures into concrete actions against individuals and entities engaged in terrorism, without seeking to discriminate between terrorist groups on the basis of their real or assumed cause or grievance. As we have learned painfully over the years in different places, from Mumbai to Karachi and from Colombo to New York, no cause or concern justifies terrorism. The common goal of such brutal violence is annihilation and destruction — the antithesis of what the United Nations and international community stand for.

Concrete actions should be taken on several fronts. They should be multidimensional, interconnected and coordinated. Such actions should range from technical surveillance of potential acts of terrorism at the planning stages, focused on the entities or their front organizations, to the prevention and interdiction of illicit trafficking of people, arms, ammunition and other offensive material. This should be done at the supply end as well, not relying solely on action at the receiving end, which is the case at present in most situations. While a comprehensive legal regime and reasonable implementation mechanisms against terrorist fundraising and financing do exist, there is not yet a robust and functional tracking and interdiction system in place against the acquisition and transportation by air or sea of offensive assets deployable by terrorist groups that are banned worldwide. The interdiction and non-proliferation systems that exist for weapons of mass destruction are either unable or unwilling to be harnessed for what is clearly an equally dangerous threat to international peace and security: the free movement of terrorist hardware across frontiers, on the high seas and now by air.

Some terrorist groups, like the Tigers in Sri Lanka, have audaciously acquired aviation capability, indicating their intention to become a regional hub for weapons trafficking. There should be more determined mutual assistance and international cooperation to ensure that terrorist groups do not acquire such transnational capabilities, whether through diaspora assistance or geopolitical manipulations.

In 2006, the Security Council adopted an important resolution with a view to making its coverage of terrorism more inclusive. Resolution 1566 (2004) requires urgent attention and action by the Council and other Members of the United Nations to build upon its specific focus on individuals and groups other than those covered by resolution 1267 (1999). The resolution calls for the identification of specific measures against such groups, which, in our view, also include internationally banned groups such as the LTTE. It is hoped that the Working Group established under resolution 1566 (2004) will address the critical issues with the attention they deserve.

Along with other Members of the United Nations, Sri Lanka finds it timely to urge the Council to devote more effort to balancing its current counter-terrorism focus in order to provide a more comprehensive approach to the security dimension of the terrorism challenge. Only such an approach, which does not discriminate among terrorist groups, will enable

Member States and the international community to take decisive measures against the perpetrators of terrorism in a coherent and coordinated manner.

Conceived in cold blood and executed uncompromisingly, the ruthless attacks in India, which we have condemned unreservedly, are a pointer to how the agents of terror, both external and home-grown, are fine-tuning their strategies and tactics. This coordination reveals a dangerous trend of cooperation among such networks at all levels — national, subregional, regional and international — and thereby confronts us with the expanding prospect of the globalization of terrorism.

Collective, coherent and resolute action through international cooperation is therefore imperative. This is necessary so that terror groups like the LTTE do not seek and abuse the cover of ceasefires to acquire and operate illegal merchant fleets under flags of convenience, as they do now, in order to transport weapons and build commercial networks with other terror groups such as Al-Qaida, as the London International Institute for Strategic Studies has reported for several years now.

Such international cooperation could have prevented the LTTE, for example, from abusing a long-standing ceasefire to illegally acquire an aviation capability that can threaten stability and security abroad while undermining democratic conflict-resolution processes at home. The policy and legal regimes of Council resolutions such as 1373 (2001) should be given more functional teeth. There is no time more demanding than today to prove that we are equal to that task. We therefore welcome your efforts, Sir, and the draft presidential statement of the Council in that regard.

The President: I call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Khazaee (Islamic Republic of Iran): Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the Council's presidency this month and thanking you for having convened this important debate on the daunting impact of terrorism on international security. We hope that this debate will help revitalize and strengthen international solidarity to combat this threat under the auspices of the United Nations.

There is no need to stress the fact that terrorism remains one of the most serious threats and challenges that the world community is facing today. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Undoubtedly, the collective fight against this menace continues to remain a high priority on the agenda of the international community, with the United Nations at the forefront and playing a central role in that regard. The elimination of terrorism will be possible only through collective and coordinated international efforts led by the United Nations.

The recent brutal terrorist attacks in Mumbai, which we once again strongly condemn, served as a reminder to all that terrorists are relentless in their vicious efforts and in resorting to their heinous criminal and terrorist acts to inflict pain and suffering on various peoples and to strain relations among nations. Also, the latest atrocious terrorist attacks in Pakistan have been equally condemned and indicate that terrorism knows no boundaries and that terrorists strike whenever and wherever they can and as their vicious aims so require.

We have all acknowledged and emphasized the important contribution that the United Nations counter-terrorism mechanisms can and should make to our collective efforts to fight terrorism. Based upon that belief, my Government has committed itself to cooperate with those mechanisms and in that context has so far presented five national reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Apart from the numerous measures taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in line with the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions on terrorism, which are described in the said reports, Iran has adopted and has put into force the anti–money-laundering act that was subject to thorough deliberations prior to its adoption by the Parliament. We have also augmented and intensified practical arrangements to ensure, among other things, the safety and security of our borders with neighbouring countries. Iran's costly fight against the drug traffickers who originate in Afghanistan is another aspect of our serious contribution to the fight against terrorism and its feeding grounds.

Iran has also taken serious steps in implementing resolution 1267 (1999) and other Council resolutions on Al-Qaida and the Taliban. As one of the first victims

of the Taliban's terrorism and as a nation that has endured the bitter results of the terrorism perpetrated by terrorist groups such as Jundullah, that is said to be affiliated with Al-Qaida and the Taliban, Iran has strong interest and unwavering determination in the fight against terrorism and in contributing to the United Nations efforts in that important fight.

Our nation is still experiencing profound sorrow and grief after having learned that 15 of its brave and beloved soldiers who were abducted by the Jundullah terrorist group have been slaughtered by the said terrorist group in a heinous and brutal way a few days ago. The perpetrators of that terrorist act must be brought to justice and the cooperation of the international community is essential in that regard.

To yield the expected results, the fight against terrorism should be genuine, non-political, non-selective and resolute. Associating any nation, religion or culture with terrorism is a wrong — and in many cases politically motivated — move that risks further shattering the international consensus in fighting the threat. Regrettably, there have been certain unwarranted and unacceptable efforts on the part of a few Powers aimed at hijacking the fight against terrorism and using it as a means to pursue their own political agendas. They have been unjustifiably using the term "terrorism" to tarnish the image of nations that may pursue a political outlook different from those of the said few Powers.

That trend, if not checked and reversed, will lead to a decline in international support for the fight against terrorism and result in destroying the international consensus which is indispensable for that fight. There should be no doubt that terrorism is a threat that comes from no specific religion or culture, but threatens and targets all countries, religions and cultures.

Applying double standards in fighting terrorism and terrorist groups is yet another matter of grave concern which negatively affects the international community's collective campaign against terrorism. On the one hand, we witness that the legitimate struggle of peoples under occupation for self-determination and national liberation — a right enshrined in international law and the Charter — is sometimes unfairly and falsely equated with terrorism. On the other, the massacre of people remaining under occupation, such as the criminal and terrorist acts of the Israeli regime against the people under its brutal occupation, goes unpunished or is even supported by certain Powers. Some terrorist groups such as the Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MKO) terrorist cult, that only live to kill innocent people and are clear examples of terrorism, are tolerated, sheltered or even supported by the same Powers.

In the course of the past three decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been subjected to different acts of terrorism by terrorist groups such as the MKO terrorist cult. That terrorist and criminal group has long been stationed in Iraq and has planned, financed, supervised and perpetrated terrorist operations within and outside Iran against the Iranian nation and peoples of other countries. Their acts of terrorism have thus far resulted in the killing of many Iranian civilians and officials and have damaged private and Government properties.

That notorious, callous and wicked terrorist cult was long supported and sheltered by the regime of Saddam Hussein. It fought against our nation alongside the previous Iraqi regime and worked as one of the main killing machines of Saddam Hussein against the Iraqi people, particularly Kurds and others. Currently, the few remaining members of that terrorist cult continue to maintain their military capabilities as well as their terrorist nature, structure, aims and malicious founding principles and are still involved in various forms of terrorism and criminal activities.

Despite its heinous terrorist and cultish nature and in spite of all its brutal terrorist activities, many members of that terrorist cult, which was designated a terrorist entity by the United States and the European Union (EU), continue to be sheltered in the United States and Europe, plotting their malicious terrorist plans against our nation. Undoubtedly, double standards and selectivity in fighting terrorism as well as political moves such as the recent decision by certain European courts about the previous EU decisions on this terrorist cult are unacceptable and unwarranted.

Such behaviour is in contravention of Security Council resolutions on terrorism and will only give rise to an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust in the international fight against terrorism at a time when solidarity among nations to fight that scourge is more imperative than ever. We are of the strong view that there should not be any distinction between the diverse

forms of terrorism and terrorist groups. Indeed, terrorism should be fought with no discrimination or exception.

Before concluding, I wish to stress that my delegation rejects the distortions and allegations made against my country by the representative of the Israeli regime in the Council today. No amount of distortion, allegations or smear campaigns will be able to cloud the obvious fact that the Zionist regime continues to display the most single immediate threat to regional and global security through its war crimes and State terrorism against the innocent Palestinians and others in the region.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Ms. Blum (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me, Sir, to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December. Croatia's initiative to convene this thematic debate on global security and international terrorism is very timely. It is all the more so at a time when the international community has condemned the recent terrorist attacks in the city of Mumbai, India, which took the lives of hundreds of innocent people and injured hundreds more.

We reiterate Colombia's condolences to the Government and the people of India and express our solidarity with the victims and their relatives. Having suffered the effects of terrorism, my country well understands the extent of that tragedy.

The fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, for whatever reasons and committed by whomever, must continue to be one of the priority goals of the international community. Colombia accords the highest priority to efforts aimed at agreeing upon international instruments and mechanisms to fight that scourge. That is why we have supported initiatives at the hemispheric and global levels to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism.

My country has ratified the relevant agreements on terrorism adopted within the framework of the United Nations. It has also participated in defining mandates and political commitments to prevent and suppress terrorism, agreed upon at summits of the Americas, the Rio Group, the Organization of American States and the United Nations. In that regard, I would like to underline my country's recent ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

Strengthening cooperation and assistance among States and international organizations is a fundamental aspect in the fight against terrorism. The Government of Colombia believes that this fight demands a cooperative approach through bilateral, regional and subregional instruments that help to address the manifestations of that scourge. The fight against international terrorism can be effective only if all countries are equally committed and progress in implementing their international obligations. We cannot relent in our efforts to eradicate that threat. As long as the security of our citizens and institutions is under siege from that phenomenon, the progress achieved in various areas will be weak and vulnerable.

In that regard, the need for policies that include comprehensive action against money-laundering and the global drug problem as sources that feed terrorism is increasingly evident. The resolute will of all States to stop providing safe haven to members of terrorist groups and to promote the exchange of intelligence conducive to dismantling the existing networks is also required.

My delegation considers it appropriate that initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to implement strategies to tackle that problem, particularly through technical assistance mechanisms, are a priority of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. The formation of five groups to deal with cross-sectional assistance in the areas of finance control, arms trafficking, border control, legal issues and other matters provided for in Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) is a step in the right direction. So, too, is the Counter-Terrorism Committee's focus on assessing the efficacy of measures adopted by States and on identifying capacities, resources and infrastructure that could be improved.

Recently, through those mechanisms, my country had the opportunity to offer technical assistance for financial analysis as a tool to address money-laundering. That offer was welcomed and has been channelled, for example, into cooperation with Jamaica, through financing provided by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism. Also with the Committee's support, Colombia has hosted regional

events on such issues as port security management, travel document administration and cybercrime.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy set a new and decisive milestone, as it provided the international system with a comprehensive perspective in the fight against that scourge. It also allowed a definite course to be marked out to strengthen international cooperation and to tackle the various forms of terrorism and the activities from which it feeds.

My delegation supports the negotiation and adoption of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism as a complement to the Global Strategy. It is necessary to strengthen efforts to complete the negotiation of that important instrument.

I would also like to highlight the progress achieved in the implementation of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). That progress should encourage an additional effort by the Security Council and the General Assembly to strengthen coordination and coherence in the criteria, mechanisms and efforts of the Organization in the fight against terrorism.

At the national level, the defence and democratic security policy, implemented by the Government of Colombia, has achieved results that are widely recognized internationally. Thanks to that policy, my country is now able to better defend the democratic system and the rule of law, guarantee the security and freedom of the people, protect human rights and promote economic and social development.

Colombia has been carrying out measures and actions against terrorism within the framework of a State policy that engages the different entities and institutions, in accordance with the international agreements to which Colombia is a party. It is clear that the isolated actions of States or international institutions are not enough to address the threat of terrorism. The continued commitment of all States and relevant actors is therefore indispensable, particularly in matters pertaining to crimes closely related to terrorism, such as the global drug problem, money-laundering and the illicit traffic in arms, among other things, which demand a joint, coordinated and sustained effort.

Conscious of that, Colombia wishes to reiterate the need to strengthen cooperation in that area, including at the bilateral, regional and global levels. The responsibility, willing and commitment of all States are essential for the efforts of the international community to be truly effective in that regard.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Albania.

Mr. Neritani (Albania): Let me join others, Sir, in congratulating you on assuming the current presidency of the Security Council and for organizing this open exchange on very important issues related to global terrorism, international security and strengthening joint international efforts in combating this growing threat. Albania fully aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add a few comments in my national capacity.

Terrorism continues to evolve, while effectively and increasingly posing an asymmetrical threat to our common fundamental values. Combined with other serious threats to international peace and security, it continues to demand our proactive capacity for a stronger and more coordinated response. A few days ago, terrorism struck the heart of Mumbai, India. I join other representatives in condemning that cowardly act and extend our full solidarity to the Indian people and Government and the families of all the victims.

Terrorism is never justifiable on any grounds. It is a global threat that requires a global and comprehensive response. Addressing this evolving threat effectively requires full-spectrum political will and a capacity to implement commitments on the ground. Relevant institutional awareness and policy-level engagements are part of the same equation. The nature of this phenomenon and our common drive towards a shared objective requires participation with and an inclusive policy towards non-governmental organizations and civil society. Our national Government's home-grown strategy, which is characterized by a developed sense of ownership and responsibility, continues to be a key factor in addressing and fulfilling our obligations.

Albania continues to actively participate in the war against terrorism. In coordination with relevant members of the international community, we are doing our best to strengthen institutional efficiency with an emphasis on creating systems of good governance, an accountable civil society and a competitive economy. These fronts represent challenges that must be faced

and require serious engagement in order to obtain tangible, effective results. All actors will have to continue their respective work in this regard.

Maintaining a shared level of political will be high on the agenda. Building necessary trust and information-sharing are a few elements of our regional cooperation. In this framework, a holistic approach is necessary and helpful. Terrorism is transnational and demands transnational readiness and response. Building compatible institutional capacities, promptly complying with international obligations, having positive and forward-looking foreign policy objectives and effectively implementing a common constructive and moderating behaviour are key parameters in our regional cooperation, as established by some actors. The western Balkans can offer a more participatory contribution to international peace and security. Tangible progress towards integration into Euro-Atlantic structures can only take place by our joining with and sharing relevant values and principles.

Although regional cooperation is very useful, the United Nations has a unique role to play. The current setting of international treaties gives rise to the duty of joining and implementing them. Albania has ratified most of the United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and protocols and is doing its best to implement them. The United Nations, together with other international institutions and countries, is helping in this regard, for which we are very grateful. We will continue our combined efforts in the future for the benefit of our common objectives.

The tendency to increase the number of various bodies with the praiseworthy intentions of addressing and tackling this multidimensional scourge has created a situation that may need to be rectified. A culture of cooperation and a rationale applicable towards establishing respective roles of players despite actual and/or potential vested interests can be helpful in generating the potential synergies without duplicating efforts and creating conflicts of interest.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate our firm commitment to actively participate in the fight against terrorism. We will continue our efforts and cooperation with the international community in actively and successfully implementing the United Nations Strategy and complying with other resolutions and recommendations of relevant bodies.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. McNee (Canada): Terrorism is a grave threat to international peace and security. We welcome the opportunity to speak today on this important issue and thank the Croatian delegation, and in particular the President of Croatia, for the idea of organizing this debate, which aims at renewing the Council's commitment to fighting terrorism.

At the outset, I would like to express, on behalf of all Canadians, our deepest sympathies and profound condolences to the families of those killed and injured in the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Canada stands with India and the entire international community in condemning these attacks in the strongest possible terms. We call on all States to assist in bringing those responsible to justice.

The Mumbai attacks serve as a reminder that terrorism is an evolving and multifaceted global threat — one which has the potential to affect all Member States. Among those killed in the attacks were nationals of many countries, including Canadians. A terrorist attack on any country is a threat to international peace and stability. The global effects of such attacks underscore the importance of strong international cooperation against terrorism. Multilateral action, in particular through the United Nations, is critical if we are to counter this threat successfully.

In particular, Canada strongly encourages all United Nations Member States to work towards implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions against terrorism, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). Canada is in full compliance with these and other terrorism-related Security Council resolutions. Canada also encourages Member States to ratify and implement effectively the relevant international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, which form the basis for international efforts in this area. We support continued efforts by Member States to work constructively towards the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Canada also welcomed the 2006 adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This document and its successful review this year show the ability of Member States to collaborate and achieve consensus on pressing international issues. Following on this agreement, however, Canada strongly urges all

Member States to work towards implementation of the Strategy.

Since 2005, Canada has demonstrated its commitment to a global response to terrorism through its Counter-Terrorism Capacity-Building Assistance Programme. Through this programme, Canada provides $13 million annually to address training, equipment, technical, legal and other security assistance and expertise aspects of the response to terrorist activity, in full compliance with the rule of law, including taking account of human rights.

(*spoke in French*)

Canada believes that protection of human rights and respect for the rule of law must be at the centre of both international and national counter-terrorism efforts. Measures against terrorism consistent with international law, in particular international human rights law and refugee and humanitarian law, are critical to the functioning of democratic institutions and the maintenance of peace and security. Strong protections for human rights, including freedom of association and freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, are integral to successfully countering the threat of terrorism.

In conclusion, Canada remains strongly committed to the global fight against terrorism, and encourages the Security Council, as well as other United Nations institutions, to renew its efforts to broaden international consensus on appropriate measures to combat this threat.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to express to you, Mr. President, our sincere congratulations and our thanks for having taken the initiative to organize this debate on this question, which is so crucial for the international community, namely, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

Terrorism is no doubt one of the most serious threats we in the international community currently face given the fact that it attacks not only the foundations of human security but also the principles and values of tolerance, openness and peaceful coexistence and, in the end, our very humanity. The savage attacks that occurred in several places in the city of Mumbai that took the lives of many innocent people have shown that the war on terrorism, despite the exceptional efforts that have been made internationally, is far from being won. Thus, I wish here to renew to the people and the Government of India our most sincere condolences.

The scope and intensity of the terrorist threat that we see in diverse, complex and new ways should prompt us to recognize that the individual actions of States, no matter how much human and material wherewithal are invested, cannot compensate for the impact of a sustained collective and effective commitment with much solidarity aimed at thwarting a real cross-border danger that is likely to emerge in any country and to evolve in any society without distinction as to religion, race, culture, development level or geographical position. In this regard, my delegation, believing that terrorism is the negation of all religious, ethical or human values, expresses its total rejection of any attempt, whatever its source, to associate terrorism with a religion, race, culture or ethnic or racial group.

For Member States, the United Nations represents the legitimate, universal and appropriate framework for forging and strengthening a collective response to terrorism. Member States have benefited from this multilateral framework to develop a legislative framework structuring their common action against terrorism.

It is in that framework that we should focus our common commitment to finalizing as soon as possible the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would complete the legal arsenal that presently exists. My delegation continues to attach great importance to concluding the comprehensive convention and remains ready to contribute to ongoing consultations to overcome the obstacles that are preventing its successful conclusion.

These efforts should be based on the positive climate and constructive spirit that we recently saw in the review meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy held in September. It is now up to Member States to develop the Strategy individually and collectively and to strive for its effective and comprehensive implementation at the national, regional and international levels. Morocco emphasizes the need for close, concerted and coordinated international cooperation to combat

terrorism that brings together political commitment, legal frameworks and operational action.

The Kingdom of Morocco has suffered from this scourge and once again reiterates its full and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We expressed this position the very day when, in 1979, the initiative was taken to inscribe the issue of counter-terrorism on the agenda of the General Assembly.

Morocco unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations because it is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and threatens the most fundamental human rights — the right to life.

My country shares the concerns of the international community regarding terrorism and has acted for many years now in the framework of international efforts to fight this scourge. For example, we have adopted an integrated legal arsenal in keeping with the requirements of the rule of law and in harmony with international commitments assumed by Morocco.

My country is determined to build its national capacities in a preventative sense, strengthened by the mobilization of all components of its population and by their support for the counter-terrorism efforts undertaken by the Government authorities. That said — and we cannot say it enough — national efforts, no matter how strenuous, are insufficient unless accompanied by proactive and effective regional and international cooperation.

In this context, my country will spare no effort to contribute to all initiatives in support of collective actions in this area. In that respect, by way of illustration, the Fifth Conference of Justice Ministers of Francophone African countries was held in Rabat from 12 to 16 May 2008 to ratify and implement universal instruments against terrorism, with the effective assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

In this same spirit of mobilizing against all forms of terrorism, in 2006 my country held the inaugural meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. In October 2008, we also hosted the second anniversary of the launching of the Initiative, which now has 75 member States.

In conclusion, my country reiterates its absolute and total condemnation of all forms of terrorism and its commitment to participating in implementing global, concerted action to strengthen international cooperation in this area. The counter-terrorism efforts of the international community cannot be fully realized unless they operate in a global and multidimensional framework that attacks the underlying causes of terrorism through the resolution of regional and international conflicts, the strengthening of our commitment against underdevelopment, and the promotion of values of dialogue among cultures, religions and civilizations. Thus, only an approach combining the security and causal dimensions of this phenomenon will overcome this scourge.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. Zainuddin (Malaysia): My delegation wishes to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate of the Security Council on the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. I believe that this debate provides an excellent opportunity for Member States to revitalize their solidarity and contribute ideas to strengthen the leading role of the United Nations in conducting global anti-terrorism efforts.

Let me take this opportunity to affirm our solidarity with the Government of India and to convey our heartfelt condolences to the families of victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai and our deepest sympathies to those injured and affected in any way by the carnage that resulted from those cowardly acts.

We reiterate our categorical condemnation of those terrorist acts and all other acts of terrorism, irrespective of its motivation and objectives, in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism. The terrorist attack in Mumbai clearly demonstrates again how terrorism directly threatens regional peace and international security.

International terrorism by its very nature is borderless. Terrorist groups, in fact, make use of advances in technology, transportation and globalization to exploit the weak links in transborder situations to plan, raise funds and eventually mount their asymmetric attacks, more frequently now on civilian targets. Therefore, we cannot overemphasize the need for the international community to intensify cooperation and for the United Nations to provide a

stronger leading role to narrow down and eventually obliterate the space for these terrorist activities.

In this regard, my delegation is encouraged by the improvements in the work methods under the United Nations counter-terrorism regimes, especially those of the subsidiary bodies established pursuant to Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). We welcome the adoption of resolution 1822 (2008) and the short-term goal of the 1267 Committee to make the Consolidated List a living document while, at the same time, responding to calls by the general membership for the listing and de-listing process to guarantee more stringent criteria for due process, including the human rights of terrorist suspects.

My delegation also welcomes the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in completing the Preliminary Implementation Assessment of all Member States, while avoiding putting too much of a reporting burden on the Member States.

Nevertheless, the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council for counter-terrorism need to rigorously evaluate their effectiveness and to constantly improve ways to facilitate the effective implementation of resolutions. We should avoid a situation in which Member States are turned off by the requirements of the subsidiary bodies or, much worse, in which the subsidiary bodies work on their own, in a total disconnect from the general membership of the United Nations.

We continue to be confronted almost daily by news of some form of terrorist acts involving greater numbers of civilian casualties. My delegation regrets that the international community is still struggling to adopt a universally accepted definition of terrorism when there is agreement that we cannot accept or tolerate these terrorist acts. To use the analogy of the six blind men and the elephant, while we address the same enemy, we fail to agree on how to define it. We feel that this is important because without this definition, we are unable to address this scourge comprehensively. As a result of our inability to agree in this regard, international counter-terrorism cooperation is compromised by narrow national perceptions and conflicting political expediencies. Agreement on a universal definition should help to create full solidarity behind comprehensive international action against terrorism.

My delegation also wishes to re-emphasize its strong conviction that all the best efforts and resources expended to wage war on terrorism would be futile if the environment that breeds terrorism is left unchecked. As a country that has gone through this experience, particularly during the communist insurgency, Malaysia remains convinced that the best way to fight terrorism is to address its root causes. No prison or detention camp would be big enough if terrorist recruitment continues to thrive in environments of utter despair and indignity in situations of colonization, foreign occupation, the wrongful seizure of land and destruction of homes, illegal settlement, ethnic cleansing, abject poverty or lack of hope for protection and redress.

In the same vein, attributing terrorism to a particular religion or nationality is a misguided effort, as no religion propagates terrorism and no nationality is predisposed to it. My delegation calls on the international community to reject any attempt to link Islam and Muslims to terrorism.

Mr. President, we welcome the identification of a new direction, as reflected in your concept paper for this debate (S/2008/738), to the effect that religions are victims of terrorism and socio-economic handicaps are indeed a factor favouring the spread of terrorism. We definitely have a new challenge confronting us: to mend the atmosphere of mistrust, serious infringement of human rights and civilizational and cultural division caused by terrorism and counter-terrorism actions. Furthermore, the United Nations should definitely take a firm lead in future counter-terrorism efforts both within the Security Council and within the General Assembly.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reaffirm Malaysia's commitment to lending its fullest cooperation to all States and the United Nations in the fight against terrorism. Malaysia believes that terrorism can be eliminated only through full cooperation and solidarity among all members of the international community in a comprehensive counter-terrorism effort.

The President: I now call on the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Escalona Ojeda (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of

the presidency of the Security Council for the current month. I welcome the fact that the Council has considered it important to convene a debate on so essential a topic as that before us today: threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. Undoubtedly, that is an issue that can be analysed from various perspectives and in various ways. However, if there is one thing on which all peoples and nearly all Governments throughout the world have agreed, it is that without justice there can be no peace, and without peace there can be no international security.

When the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela revised its constitution in 1999, we set out in its preamble the overall guidelines for our legal and political conduct in the international arena. They promote peaceful cooperation among nations and encourage and strengthen Latin American integration in accordance with the principle of non-intervention and the self-determination of peoples, the universal and indivisible guarantee of human rights, the democratization of international society, nuclear disarmament, ecological balance and environmental resources as the common and inalienable heritage of humankind.

Those guidelines have guided the course of our nation over the past nine years, during which we have been subjected to various kinds of international threats. These have included organizing internal conspiracies in order to overthrow the Government and weakening democracy by spreading violence and attempting to promote chaos in order to destabilize our society so that we will be declared an unviable State, a failed State, with all the consequences that that could have for our sovereignty, our territorial integrity and our very existence as a nation.

In that context, a serious terrorist act was committed in Venezuela. It involved the assassination of Prosecutor Danilo Anderson, who was investigating the very people who had been involved in the coup d'état against President Hugo Chávez Frías. As a result, President Chávez Frías has denounced in various international forums those Governments that claim they defend peace and fight terrorism, while they attack other States and promote terrorism against them.

The terrible and deplorable events of 11 September 2001 aroused global indignation, and Venezuela clearly condemned them. However, they gave rise to a policy that has various aspects. First, it changed the fight against terrorism into an excuse to attack and invade other countries. Secondly, it led to the systematic use of terror and human rights violations as a way to punish others for reasons linked to racial, cultural and religious discrimination, which has affected Muslim citizens in particular, as if it were a clash of civilizations, which cannot be true. What we are seeing in today's world is, on the contrary, a meeting among various cultures and a profound and promising process of racial mixing. Despite the fact that such a positive process is under way, what has been imposed is ethnic cleansing, giving rise to conflicts that loom over the global political arena and pose a serious threat to peace.

In the name of the supposed defence of national and international security, constitutional rights are being de-legitimized and violated, and legal statutes and norms of international coexistence are being flouted. Countries are being invaded, which has killed tens of thousands, including women, the elderly, children and entire villages. The cultural, economic and ecological heritage and physical infrastructures are being destroyed in a mad spree that surpasses any other atrocity in history.

We cannot fight terrorism — which Venezuela has always condemned — through State terrorism, whose deadly aggression is masked with the description "collateral damage", when what is involved is families who have been bombed when they were walking on a beach, having parties or simply staying peacefully at home. We must denounce and condemn those atrocities and demand that the aggressors be stopped.

We repudiate the recent attacks in Mumbai. We express our solidarity with the people and the Government of India and hope that the ongoing investigations will lead to the identification and punishment of those responsible.

We condemn impunity. That is why we wish to recall that, here in the United States, the dangerous terrorist Luis Posada Carriles — who is responsible for cruel acts, including blowing up a Cuban aircraft — is at liberty and protected by the authorities. Impunity is a lack of justice and is just as deadly as terrorist acts.

Today, we are experiencing different kinds of threats to peace. One of them could be the terrible global inequality, in which 5 per cent of the world's

population consumes 25 per cent of all world's energy resources and the rich, who constitute 16 per cent of the population — basically, the United States, Europe and Japan — consume 80 per cent of the world's goods.

Moreover, we should warn that the present international financial system has shown that it generates serious disturbances of the peace, since its actions have increased unemployment, poverty and injustice. That generates violence of all sorts and creates a threat of chaos and terror, because without justice there can be no peace.

Another aspect that is a serious threat to peace has to do with environmental issues. The planet is being killed through pollution, the destruction of biological diversity, global warming and the ruin of seas, rivers and other sources of water, all of which constitutes a severe threat to mankind and the loss of the planet's productivity. That intensifies hunger, above all in women and children, which is a real act of terror.

We can in no way believe that it is necessary for a human being to die in order to achieve peace. We believe in consensual agreements that are reached in a peaceful, fair and equitable manner. We think it is possible to settle disputes and conflicts via dialogue and negotiations, with respect for international law and for especially human rights.

We once again call for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation as a condition for the security of all nations. So too we recognize the right of all countries to carry out whatever research they deem necessary for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The practice of terror has no justification and States have the obligation to put an end to torture, detentions without trial, special military tribunals, clandestine prisons, kidnappings and other affronts to human dignity.

Mr. Haroon (Pakistan): Today the United Nations has gathered to debate threats to international peace and security. It is fitting that the President of Croatia, His Excellency Mr. Stjepan Mesić, is presiding over this discussion. Croatia has suffered enormous trauma and has been devastated by the threats to its peace and security. I express my felicitations to His Excellency for not only presiding over this debate, but for also giving us, in his first address, the benefit of his experience in this matter.

Today, as we discuss this important issue, we are troubled by two very tragic events that resulted in the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians in Mumbai, India, and a few days later in Peshawar, Pakistan. These horrific devastations were thousands of miles apart, yet they have a discernible imprint of common purpose. They remind us of the common threat posed by terrorism and of our common birth and destiny.

I condemn these incidents and condole with all concerned. The President of Pakistan asked me to convey to the Council the pain in India as he perceives it:

> "We can identify with India's pain. I am especially sympathetic. I feel this pain every time I look into the eyes of my children."

Today, in the New York Times, the President of Pakistan has stated to the world his intent that Pakistan is committed to the pursuit, arrest, trial and punishment of anyone involved in those heinous attacks. Pakistan will take action against non-State actors found within our territory, treating them as criminals, terrorists and murderers. Not only are the terrorists not linked to the Government of Pakistan in any way, we too are their targets and we too continue to be their victims. The President then goes on to say very empathetically, "But we caution against hasty judgments and inflammatory statements".

The words of the President have today been converted from commitment to action. The New York Times has carried an article describing "Pakistan raids militants linked to Mumbai attacks", in which I specifically quote the Army Information Department of Pakistan as saying, "We have started intelligence-led operations against banned militant outfits and organizations today". That is a very important statement, as it shows that all arms of the Pakistani Government are moving in coordination and cohesion towards punishment of those who seek, in any way, to destroy the peace of our neighbours and of our own country.

So Pakistan has cast the proverbial first stone. I was a little surprised by the strong denouncement by my friends in India at the Security Council today, but then I view it under the domestic political considerations of the moment. But I do ask, is it warranted? Is there anything that we are not willing to do with you, within reason? The President of Pakistan clearly stated to India and the world that "the best

response to the Mumbai carnage is to coordinate to counteracting the scourge of terrorism". I think this is a very important offer. The world must act to strengthen Pakistan's economy and democracy, help us build civil society and provide us with the law enforcement and counter-terrorism capacities that will enable us to fight the terrorist activity effectively. He further goes on to say that India and Pakistan and the rest of the world must work together to track down the terrorists who caused mayhem in Mumbai, attacked New York, London, Madrid and also destroyed the Marriot Hotel in Islamabad in September.

We did not wish to raise any issues, but by jumping to conclusions, I would request that my friends in India recall that when the Friendship Samjhauta Express — I do not want to raise this, but I am just giving this as an example — was burned down, with Muslim passengers killed on their way to Pakistan, fingers were pointed hastily at Pakistan. Later it was proved that an Indian Army colonel was involved.

Similarly — not a point I would have raised today, but under the circumstances — with regard to Kashmir, Pakistan, despite its domestic situation, is exercising restraint in international forums, and that is how we would have liked to have seen the aftermath of the Mumbai incident as well. We are all aware that the Kashmir situation is the root cause of all the problems between India and Pakistan. Would it not be a good time to do away with the root cause by pledging to resolve it, not just with words but with deeds and actions, as we have done today in Pakistan, and get that problem away from us all?

How should we proceed? I would say, let us recommend to each other to stop all negative campaigns against each other, that India must help resolve even the religious aspect. Some of those here may not be aware that in the Northwestern frontier province, where that matter has taken root in a very deep way, there is a very strong quarter of society led entirely by the mullahs. These mullahs owe their obeisance to the mullahs in Deoband, India. I do not say this as a criticism or to point fingers — I have a very good suggestion.

What I would like to say is that if senior clerics from Deoband, who wield great influence in the North-West Frontier territories of Pakistan and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, would come to Pakistan, get together and, in their tremendous knowledge of religion, offer a fatwa in Pakistan against the suicide bombings and the killing of Muslims that are happening in Pakistan and even in India, I think it would have a very important effect in the North-West Frontier province. In fact, the most powerful politician from that province happens to be Maulana Fazul-ur-Rehman, who also owes his obeisance to Deoband.

So we can help each other, we can be with each other, and we can use each other's facilities — the last idea being perhaps the most important, and which has not yet even been considered.

I would also like to give the Council a few glimpses of measures being undertaken today in Pakistan.

First, the Government of Pakistan has already initiated investigations on its own pertaining to the allegations of the involvement of persons and entities in the Mumbai attacks.

Secondly, after the designation by the Indian Government of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa under resolution 1267 (1999), the Government, upon receiving this instruction, shall proscribed the Jamaat-ud-Dawa and take other consequential actions, as required, including the freezing of assets. A plan is being prepared to ensure effective Government supervision, as required by this body and others of the various welfare organizations. An intelligence-led operation, strongly supported by law enforcement agencies, is already under way to arrest the individuals alleged to be involved in the Mumbai attacks. No training camps for Lashkar-e-Tayyiba or any entity of this nature shall be allowed on the territory of Pakistan.

The aforementioned measures, which are in process, constitute further proof of Pakistan's determination to take action and not to allow its territory to be used for terrorism. The Pakistan Government's ability and capacity to take strong measures requires the understanding and full support of its friends, the United Nations and its Security Council. In addition to our proposal of a joint commission and investigations, we have now proposed that India receive the highest possible level delegation from Pakistan to sort out these affairs and ensure that matters are further improved in the future.

But now let me come to the real focus of this debate. I feel that our object is to improve and

strengthen international cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism. In the broader fight against terrorism, the pre-eminence of operational measures can never be challenged. However, to ensure the total defeat of terrorists, we need to formulate comprehensive strategies.

We believe that a simplistic approach to resolving intricate problems will create more problems. The first and foremost need of the time is that we promote international harmony, in which this Council can play an exceedingly important role. We must reject efforts aimed at creating new divisions, clashes and schisms. The human thirst for justice, however misperceived it may be, can be better quenched through political means than through force.

We must therefore promote political solutions to long-standing unresolved conflicts; here I would cite the situations in Kashmir and Palestine. Though these conflicts are unique in nature, they present similar challenges and opportunities. We should be encouraged by the dividends of the political solution of the Northern Ireland issue achieved through the Good Friday Agreement and follow in the same direction.

I would like to underscore the need to strengthen democracies and to create an all-inclusive environment of support to fight the menace of terrorism. It helps to isolate those who promote their cause through force instead of debate and dialogue. It promotes the sense of social participation and mainstreams the fringe elements. The sinister terrorist masterminds take pains to identify and sabotage nascent friendships. If we succumb to their designs and actions, they repeat their actions. If you get closer after the destructive actions, they are discouraged. So the need is to get closer. A consistent pattern of response based on divisions will not only expose our weaknesses, but encourage the evil. We need to stand united in the hour of crisis, taking that stance as an important element of our counter-terrorism strategy, to further cement the relationships aimed at fighting this menace.

For the long-term resolution of international terrorism and security issues, we need to look into all root causes of international terrorism and security-related matters. These issues have been covered in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly. We need to implement the Strategy in a balanced and comprehensive way.

Last but not least, we have to sincerely and effectively address the capacity-building needs of the partner countries. A partnership in which we are reluctant to share critical equipment and technologies will lack trust and amount to disarming those fighting against terrorists. This could not only result in undesired casualties, but would also prolong the war.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Adi (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council this month. I would also like to commend you for holding this important meeting. It takes place following the terrorist incidents in Mumbai, India, which resulted in the death and injury of many innocent civilians. My country was one of the first to condemn those attacks through the President of the Republic, Bashar Al-Assad, who also expressed his condolences on behalf the Syrian people to the fraternal people and Government of India.

The representative of Israel has once again used the venue of the Security Council to falsify facts about the terrorist acts that have been organized and carried out by her State for decades now. The representative of Israel thought that, through attacks against my country, she could distract attention from the problems of violence and terrorism in our region.

The essential fact here is that Israel is occupying Arab territories and committing crimes against humanity. These acts have been carried out by successive Israeli Governments against the defenceless Palestinian people. Everyone knows that Israel is imposing an unfair embargo against Gaza and has adopted a slow-kill policy against more than 1.5 million Palestinians there. Israel has folded its arms when confronted with the terrorist acts of Israeli settlers committed against Palestinians in Hebron. The intervention by the representative of Israel cannot change the terrible past of terrorism — the archives, encyclopaedias and museums are filled with facts about ethnic cleansing, war crimes and genocide committed by Israel in the course of its bloody history against Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese, Egyptians, Jordanians and nationals of other countries.

Israel introduced State terrorism in the region. The terrorist gangs are well known to everyone. They include Shtren, Irgun, Stern Gang, Haganah and

Balmakh, which have killed thousands of Palestinians and evicted millions of them from their land. Israel assassinated United Nations special envoy Count Bernadotte. By hijacking a Syrian civilian aircraft in 1954, Israel committed the first act of air piracy in history. Israel carried out political assassinations in Beirut in 1968, killing unarmed civilian intellectuals. In the 1980s, it carried out attacks against heads of Palestinian municipalities, using booby-trapped cars. Israel bombed the American intelligence vessel, *USS Liberty*, during the 1967 war, after it had intercepted orders for the mass execution of Egyptian prisoners in the Sinai. In 1971, Israel shot down a Libyan civilian plane.

Israel attacked the headquarters of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon in southern Lebanon, killing 106 civilians who had taken refuge in the United Nations building. In 2006, Israel attacked observer positions in the areas of Maroun Al-Ras and Al-Khiam. Let us not forget the report issued by the Canadian Army, which investigated a terrorist crime that had led to the deaths of a Canadian commander and three Austrian, Chinese and Finnish observers. That report revealed that Israel had deliberately attacked their position. There were also other suspicious operations against peacekeeping forces in southern Lebanon.

A Belgian commander, killed on 5 September 2008, was the most recent victim of Israeli attacks in our region. He was killed during a demining operation to remove mines planted by Israel in southern Lebanon. Israel continues to refuse to provide maps of where it has planted mines and cluster bombs in Lebanon, which have caused the deaths of hundreds of Lebanese, including dozens of women and children, despite repeated calls by the Security Council and the United Nations to provide such maps.

That is the reality of the terrorist State of Israel, whose representative has unsuccessfully attempted to detract attention from its terrorist nature. The representative of Israel has also labelled Palestinian refugee organizations as terrorist groups — refugees whom the State of Israel has forced into exile from their lands and homes for decades. Those refugees are attempting to regain their rights and to have recourse to international legality through international resolutions. Arab States, including Syria, have hosted those brotherly refugees, providing them with the support they need while they wait to return to their country, Palestine. They have done so in line with resolutions of international legality, especially General Assembly resolution 194 (III), on the Palestinians' right of return.

Like the majority of States, Syria has supported the right of peoples to freedom and self-determination. For many years, Syria condemned the odious apartheid regime in South Africa, whose main partner was Israel.

Let us not forget Israel's terrorism against the rights of the Syrian people in the occupied Syrian Golan. That State terrorism has been condemned annually by the United Nations in most of its Main Committees, as well as by the yearly vote on and adoption of resolutions condemning Israel's occupation of the Golan and its annexation of it in 1981. The United Nations has likewise condemned the repression of Syrian citizens by Israeli occupying authorities. Israel's practices are tantamount to collective punishment and war crimes, and run counter to international law.

Had Israel not pursued its occupation in the Palestinian, Syrian Golan and Lebanese territories for many decades, we would not be witnessing the legitimate acts of resistance that Israel and those who protect it deem to be terrorism. Had influential countries in the United Nations not continued to support Israel's crimes in our region, international cooperation and efforts to combat terrorism would have been more effective, useful and productive.

Ms. Willson (United States of America): The allegations that we have heard this afternoon concerning the case of Luis Posada Carriles and the five Cubans convicted of spying in the United States are not new. In almost every recent Security Council debate on counter-terrorism, those cases have been raised. They were raised today and they were raised less than a month ago, during the Council's debate on 12 November on the work of its counter-terrorism committees. At that time, the United States gave a detailed description of the background and legal steps that had been taken by the Government of the United States with regard to those cases. Rather than repeat that discussion, I refer interested delegations to the verbatim record of the 12 November response, which is available in document S/PV.6015.

The President: The representative of Cuba has asked for the floor to make a further statement. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Benitez Versón (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have asked for the floor to respond to the statement that has just been made by the representative of the United States. Given that the Council's debate today has been lengthy and at times intense, I shall be brief.

We understand that it is not pleasant for the delegation of the United States for uncomfortable truths about the behaviour of its Government to be introduced in the Security Council. However, that cannot prevent those truths from being stated and repeated. It is to no avail for them to attempt repeatedly to cover up the obvious. The reality evident to everyone is that the Government of the United States has gone to truly shameful extremes to protect the most famous terrorist in the Western Hemisphere.

The decision to allow Posada Carriles to go free, who continues to maintain contacts in Miami with terrorist elements and the extreme right, is the clearest illustration of the duplistic morality of the current Government of the United States. It is also a complete refutation of its supposed fight against terrorism. The Government of the United States expects us passively to accept its hypocritical call to do as it says and not as it does.

The case of Luis Posada Carriles is undoubtedly the best known example, but of course it is hardly the only one. In Miami and other cities of the United States, funds are provided and used to finance terrorist activities with complete impunity. Bank accounts are openly and regularly used to finance terrorism. Terrorists are recruited, while weapons are purchased and territory is provided to those who finance, plan and commit terrorist acts against Cuba.

Cuba once again asks the Security Council to assess the ample and detailed information provided by our country and to take appropriate action. That would contribute to the efforts to end the impunity enjoyed by those who plan and commit terrorist activities against Cuba from the territory of the United States. Cuba hopes that justice will be done sooner rather than later.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of India, who has asked to make a further statement.

Mr. Doraiswami (India): We listened carefully to the statement made by the Ambassador of Pakistan. The certain truth is that this is terrorism and that territory controlled by Pakistan is used by terrorist groups based in Pakistan to perpetrate acts of terror in India. Pakistan should focus its attention on taking action against the criminals who perpetrate, aid, abet, finance or otherwise support terrorism, rather than bring before the Council extraneous issues relating to the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who has asked to make a further statement.

Mr. Escalona Ojeda (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We listened to the statement of the representative of the United States concerning the case of Luis Posada Carriles. It is a very simple case. Mr. Posada Carriles has declared his responsibility for terrorist acts, as reflected even in the United States press. Furthermore, Mr. Posada Carriles is a fugitive from Venezuelan justice and Venezuela has requested the United States to extradite him. Those requests should be heard.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has also announced its readiness to enter into dialogue with the Government of the United States at the very highest level in order to normalize our relations. That is necessary immediately if we are to find a way to solve all these issues through dialogue and direct discussions. There is only one condition to that end: respect for the sovereignty of the Government and people of Venezuela. With that single condition satisfied, along with respect for the sovereignty of all peoples, I am convinced that we will find a path to peace, dialogue and understanding.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Council for their cooperation in drafting the text of the presidential statement that I shall shortly read out. I also thank all those who participated in the debate for their constructive contributions. I believe I am correct in saying that this meeting has brought us closer to the consensus that is so necessary in the global struggle against terrorism, which poses a threat to everyone, everywhere and at all times.

Following consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council, underlining that peace and security in the world are indivisible

and taking into account the interconnection and interdependence of the world, reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. It further reaffirms its determination to combat threats to international peace and security caused by acts of terrorism by all possible means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Security Council welcomes recent statements by intergovernmental organizations condemning all forms of terrorism, including suicide bombing and hostage-taking, which build upon the universal condemnation by the international community of unlawful acts of terrorism, including against civilians, that cannot be justified or excused under any circumstances or pursuant to any political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other consideration, and reaffirms the need for Member States to work together urgently to prevent and suppress such acts.

"The Security Council emphasizes the central role of the United Nations in the global struggle against terrorism.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of all its resolutions and statements on terrorism, in particular resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and stresses the need for their full implementation.

"The Security Council renews its call on States to become parties as soon as possible to all relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and to implement those they are party to.

"The Security Council believes that terrorist safe havens continue to be a significant concern and reaffirms the need for States to strengthen cooperation in order to find, deny safe haven and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of the work of the committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) and continues its support and guidance to the committees.

"The Security Council particularly expresses its support for and commitment to contributing to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/60/288) of 8 September 2006 and welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 62/272, which reaffirmed this Strategy and its four pillars and called for its implementation in an integrated manner and in all its aspects.

"The Security Council emphasizes that enhancing dialogue and broadening the understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, and addressing unresolved regional conflicts and the full range of global issues, including development issues, will contribute to international cooperation, which by itself is necessary to sustain the broadest possible fight against terrorism.

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the incitement of terrorist acts and repudiates attempts at the justification or glorification of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts. It reaffirms the importance of countering radicalization and extremism that may lead to terrorism and preventing exploitation of young people by violent extremists.

"The Security Council, reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to an effective counter-terrorism strategy and that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are complementary and mutually reinforcing, reminds States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of technical assistance aimed at increasing the capabilities of Member States in

the fight against terrorism by addressing their counter-terrorism needs.

"The Security Council believes that the strengthening of mutual trust among Member States of the United Nations will facilitate the creation of conditions for a successful fight against terrorism, and that success in that fight will positively reinforce peace and security in the world.

"The Security Council, deeply concerned with the continuous terrorist attacks around the world, calls on all Member States of the United Nations to renew the degree of solidarity manifested immediately after the tragic event of 11 September 2001, and to redouble efforts to tackle global terrorism, dedicating significant attention to bringing to justice the perpetrators, facilitators and masterminds of terrorist acts while expressing deep compassion with all victims of terrorism.

"The Security Council will continue to follow developments in order to organize as efficiently as possible its efforts in combating terrorism."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2008/45.

The Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.